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50p
No. 65,958
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Record 57 lords in honours lists

Blair's peers take on Tory majority

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

FIFTY-SEVEN new life peers are named today, the largest number of peers appointed in a single announcement in modern times, as Tony Blair begins his attempt to reverse the inbuilt Tory domination of the House of Lords and big business shows its willingness to sign up to new Labour.

At the same time John Major rewards some of his most trusted allies, handing out honours to former Cabinet ministers as well as his former driver, cleaner and switchboard supervisor in a 50-strong resignation list.

The new contingent of peers provides consolation for several senior Tories who lost their seats on May 1 and a lease of life for many Labour MPs who stood down before the election.

The Prime Minister announces 31 new working Labour peers, embracing an array of leading industrialists who, by indicating their readiness to serve, will be expected to attend the Lords regularly, take part in debates and vote. There are 11 Liberal Democrat working peers and five Tories.

The business recruits to the Lords benches include Michael Levy, director of M and G Records; George Simpson, managing director of the General Electric Company; Michael Montague, chairman of Superframe and Montague International; David Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive of J Sainsbury, and Andrew Stone, joint managing director of Marks & Spencer.

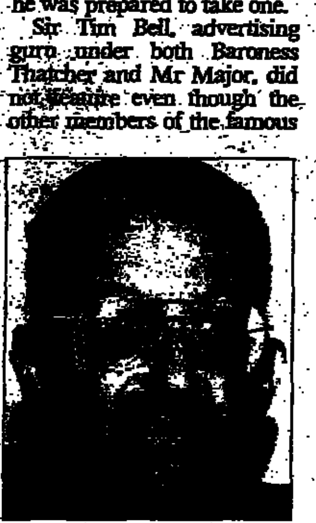
From the arts the crime writer Ruth Rendell and Sir David Puttnam, the film producer, will be Labour peers.

Mrs Rendell will be sitting opposite her fellow crime writer P.D. James, who sits as a Conservative as Baroness James of Holland Park. Helena Kennedy, QC, also becomes a Labour peer.

In all, 15 new Conservative peers are announced, ten in Mr Major's list and five in the working peers list. The latter are Tristan Garel-Jones, the former Foreign Office minister; Michael Morris, the former deputy Speaker, and three other former Tory ministers, Sir John Cope, Sir Wyn Roberts and Sir Hector Monro.

As *The Times* reported yesterday, the most prominent absentee from Mr Major's list was Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor. Because of his former seniority he would have expected a peerage but was not offered one. Sources close to Mr Major denied a revenge motive. Mr Lamont becomes the first former Chancellor in recent memory not to have been given a peerage after intimating that he was prepared to take one.

Sir Tim Bell, advertising guru under both Baroness Thatcher and Mr Major, did not feature even though the other members of the famous image troika — Peter Gummer and Maurice Saatchi — have already been ennobled.



David Sainsbury: one of the new business peers

Peerages are given, however, to Norman Blackwell, former head of the Downing Street policy unit; Tony Newton, former Commons leader; Ian Lang, former Board of Trade President; former Cabinet ministers Roger Freeman and David Hunt; Dame Janet Fookes, the former deputy Speaker; and former ministers Lord James Douglas-Hamilton and Sir Terence Higgins.

Sir Cranley Onslow and Dame Jill Knight, former grandees of the influential 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers, are also rewarded for their loyalty by being made peers.

Mr Major's close relationship in the final years of his premiership to Michael Heseltine is underlined by his award of Companion of Honour to the former Deputy Prime Minister.

Although Mr Blair remains committed to removing the voting rights of hereditary peers he wants in the meantime to correct the imbalance that has grown between the parties during Labour's long years of opposition.

Before the latest appointments, there were 327 Conservative hereditary peers, compared with just 15 Labour, and 152 Tory life peers, compared with 111 Labour.

His new list of 31 was heavily dominated by former MPs including Bryan Davies, Peter Hardy, Norman Hogg, Robert Hughes, Greville Janner, Alf Morris, Stan Orme, Stuart Randall, Sir Harold Walker and Michael Watson. Some of these MPs failed to find new seats when the boundaries of their constituencies were redrawn before the last election. Others simply retired.

Also on the list is Roy Hughes. There was controversy earlier this week when he let slip to his local newspaper that he was due to get a peerage. Mr Hughes announced just before the general election that he would not fight his safe seat, making way for Alan Howarth, the Tory MP who switched to Labour.

Party leaders had been keen to find a seat for Mr Howarth and the peerage for Mr Hughes will fuel suspicion that he was offered it as an incentive to give up his seat.

Union appointees include Tom Burlison, Labour Party treasurer and deputy general secretary of the GMB; Garfield Davies, of USDAW; and Clive Brooke joint general secretary of the Public Services Tax and Commerce Union.

The new Liberal Democrat working peers announced include the former MPs Diana Maddock and Emma Nicholson, who defected from the Tories at the last election.

More honours, page 6

JOHN McLELLAN

Ruth Rendell who was announced yesterday as a surprise Labour working peer

Rival Queens of Crime

BY MARK HENDERSON

A BATTLE, fought in the nation's bookshops, is to be joined in the House of Lords. Britain's claimants to the title of Queen of Crime will soon be facing each other in Westminster after yesterday's announcement that Ruth Rendell is to join her rival P.D. James in the Upper House.

Mrs Rendell is to be made a Labour working peer, while Baroness James of Holland Park has sat on the Conservative benches in the Lords since she was included in John Major's New Year's Honours list in 1991.

The pair have written more than 30 bestselling thrillers between them, and their detectives, Inspectors Wexford (Rendell) and Dalgleish (James) have become television favourites.

"Phyllis is a great friend, and it will be great to join her in the House of Lords," Mrs Rendell said yesterday. "We have always had opposite political positions but I don't think that will cause any more strife between us now than it has in the past. It will be nice to have a familiar face on the other side of the house." Mrs Rendell said she and Baroness James had enjoyed each other's work and had never felt they were in competition. "I respect her hugely, and I'm not sure there's really much rivalry there. If there is rivalry it is of the healthiest sort."

P.D. James: sits on Conservative benches

Baroness James, 76, who is away on holiday this weekend, was one of the first people Mrs Rendell tried to contact when the news was announced yesterday. Baroness James's secretary said that she would be delighted by Mrs Rendell's peerage and would look forward to debating with her.

Mrs Rendell, 67, was an unexpected appointment who appears to have leap-frogged other Labour supporters from the arts world such as Melvyn Bragg and John Mortimer. Her peerage came as a surprise even to her. "I had not

Continued on page 2, col 1

Surgeon taken off duty for letting boy join in operation

BY IAN MURRAY AND JOANNA BALE

A SENIOR surgeon has been suspended from duty while his hospital investigates a complaint that he allowed a teenage schoolboy to assist him in an operation.

The incident is said to have occurred while the boy, aged 16, was spending a week on work experience at the Mayday Hospital in Croydon, south London. According to evidence given to the hospital management, the boy was allowed to follow the doctor on his hospital rounds and on July 4 was scrubbed up and taken into an operating theatre. He is said to have been allowed to hold a retractor keeping the incision wound open while the surgeon carried out the operation.

The surgeon, who works principally in other hospitals in the south London area, was suspended from duty at Mayday at the start of this week on his return from holiday.

Keith Ford, the hospital trust's chief executive, said last night: "Suspension is to allow time for facts to be gathered. A disciplinary hearing has been scheduled for next week and a statement will be issued by the end of the week. To make any further comment would be prejudicial to the correct conduct of the hearing."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said: "We are aware that there was an incident in which it was alleged that a student on work experience was in an operating theatre . . . on the face of it this would appear to be rather worrying."

Dr John Spiers, chairman of the Patients' Association, said: "Given the attitudes of some consultants nothing would surprise me. It shocks me . . . nobody should be in an operating theatre who is not properly trained and regulated.

"We do not want bob-a-job week in the operating theatre. What we want is public information so that patients can judge whether surgeons are any good. It seems that some consultants think they are a law unto themselves."

Michael Sutcliffe, who retired recently as consultant surgeon at Mayday, said: "I know the doctor concerned well and he is a surgeon of the very first rank. I am certain he would have done nothing which would have in any way endangered a patient."

In November 1995, a 17-year-old A-level student put five stitches into the leg of a woman patient during two visits to Bradford Royal Infirmary. Some of the stitches were incorrectly inserted and had to be removed and replaced by the woman's own doctor. The hospital held an inquiry and apologised to the woman, but no one was disciplined.

In February, 1995, a surgeon at Treliske Hospital, Truro, Cornwall, let his theatre nurse remove an appendix. Both were suspended, allowed to return to work, but they retired shortly afterwards.

In July, 1996, a nurse at Clatterbridge Hospital, Wirral on Merseyside admitted that she had performed more than 200 unsupervised minor operations. These were all approved by doctors, involving such processes as removing cysts and taking biopsies. Other nurses have routinely been allowed to strip out veins for bypass operations.

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Parents to lose rights over class size pledge

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS will lose longstanding rights to admission at popular primary schools as the price of the Government's election pledge to keep class sizes to 30, it emerged yesterday.

Under the plans, headteachers will be required to close their rolls when classes reach the 30 limit. Parents will lose their right to appeal if they are turned away from a popular school and are forced to send their children to unpopular schools with empty desks. The move, which will revive the "neighbourhood school", is likely to see catchment areas shrink and fuel house prices surrounding the best state schools.

Provisional figures for 1997 show that nearly a quarter of England's 61,000 infant school classes have 31 or more pupils.

Ministers were accused of taking the "cheapest option" for limiting class sizes. "It does not cost any extra cash to tell children they have to go to the school down the road which has got room. Then they won't have to create extra space in the popular school," said Chris Davis, spokesman for the National Primary Headteachers Association.

The Education Department rejected the idea that thousands of children would be forced into poor schools. A spokesman said money from abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme would provide 2,000 new teachers to add extra classes at popular schools.

He said: "We want headteachers to sit down and talk about issues such as planning places. We are phasing this in gradually, so it will be the norm by 2002."

A letter has been sent to grammar schools proposing that 20 per cent of parents from the primary schools they serve would need to sign a petition to force a vote on changing them to comprehensives. Where selection is widespread in a local authority, every parent will be eligible to vote.

New York police foil bomb plot

New York police foiled a plot by at least three Hamas terrorists to bomb the New York subway's Atlantic Avenue station. The men, thought to be suicide bombers, were arrrested in a Brooklyn apartment after a fourth informed on them. The police had been totaly unaware of the plot.

And in Israel, the authorities arrested more than 50 suspected Islamic extremists in connection with Wednesday's Jerusalem market bomb attacks .... Page 12

Double beds and pubs on Virgin

Virgin Atlantic Airways plans to offer travellers double beds in private rooms, pubs, showers and exercise facilities on its new generation of Airbus A340s, which it has ordered in a £1.6 billion expansion.

The aircraft, which will carry up to 375 passengers each and are quieter and larger than Virgin's existing A340s, will enter service in 2002 on routes to the West Coast of America and the Far East .... Page 23

Duke of Edinburgh bows out at Cowes

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE Duke of Edinburgh is to end 50 years of royal sailing tradition by playing a noncompetitive role at Cowes Regatta for the first time.

When the event opens today, the Duke will watch from the deck of John Paul Getty's private yacht *Talitha G* instead of taking his usual place at the helm of his *Yeoman XXVIII*. He has missed only three regattas since 1947 and this year will be the first that he has not been registered as the skipper of his own yacht.

But the Duke will, it is believed, continue to enjoy sailing and may join in some races during the eight-day Cowes Week. There has been speculation that his decision not to register is prompted by arthritis in his wrist and hand.

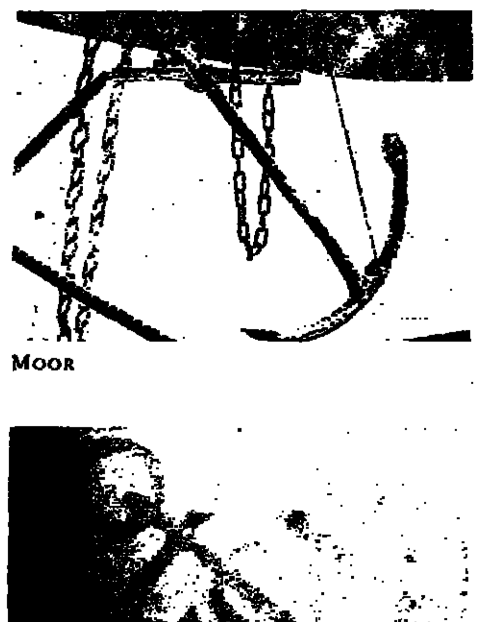
A Buckingham Palace spokesman, however, insisted that the Duke was in excellent health. He remains a keen carriage driver and shows little sign of reducing his large number of official engagements. "It is very much a personal thing for the Duke whether he sails or not. Even if he is not in the competitions, there are plenty of other things for him to do at Cowes," the spokesman said.

The Duke, with ex-King Constantine of Greece, an accomplished sailor, at his side, won his first race for 30 years in 1995 as captain of *Yeoman XXVIII*.

But it is as Admiral of the Royal Yacht Squadron that he has helped to influence modern Cowes Week more than any other individual. It was at his suggestion that the yachting clubs formed the Cowes Combined Clubs to run the event, which this year has attracted a record entry of more than 900 yachts.

Captain Dan Bradby, secretary of the Cowes Combined Clubs, said: "The Duke's contribution has been immense. If this is the end of his sailing participation in Cowes Week, it is a very sad day."

Head start, page 37



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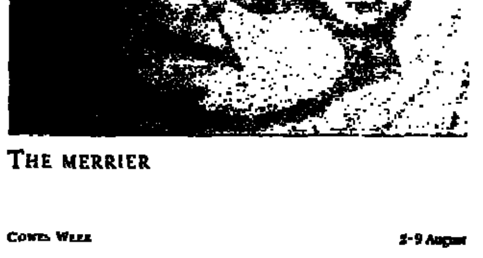

THE MERRIER

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5th Cornhill Test Match v Australia, Trent Bridge 7-11 August
Edinburgh International Festival 10-30 August
Final, NatWest Trophy, Lord's 6 September
Burghley Horse Trials, Stamford 11-14 September
St Leger Stakes, Doncaster 13 September
Last Night of the Proms 13 September
British Masters Golf 18-21 September
Le Festival aux Quat' Saisons, Great Milton 1-4 October
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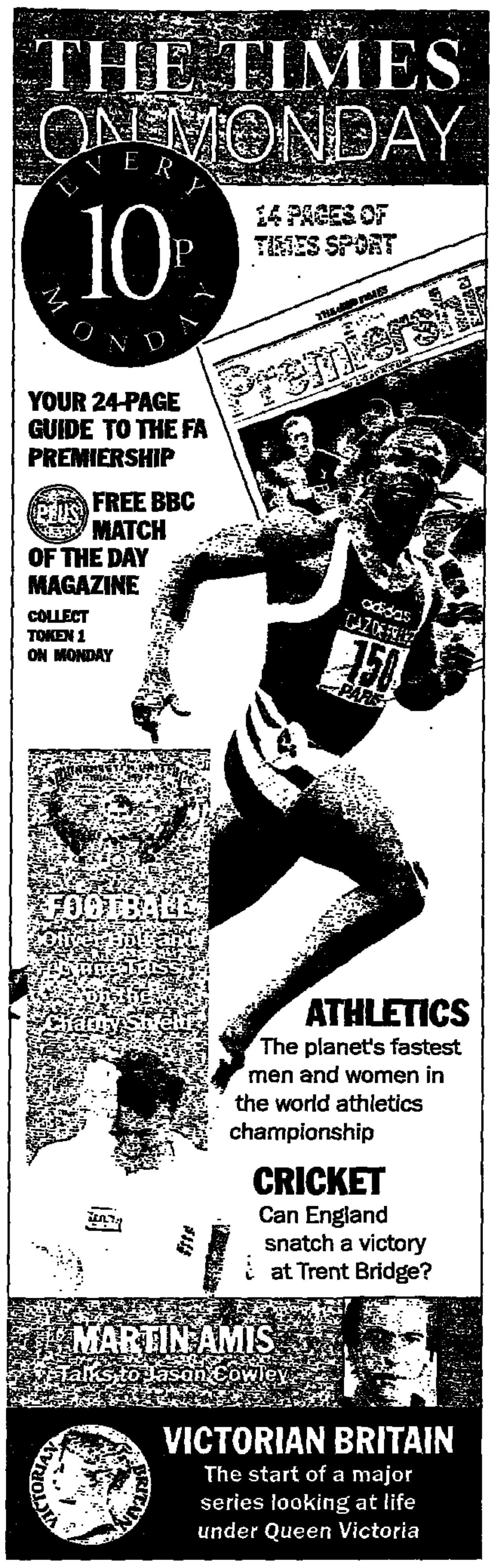

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Time flies as royal mechanic thanks Sgt Heston's heroes

By Alan Hamilton

IT was a long time since Princess Elizabeth was a motor mechanic in the ATS, and Charlton Heston was a sergeant in the USAF 77th Bomb Squadron. Now septuagenarians both, monarch and actor met yesterday at the opening of a museum to commemorate the huge contribution of American air power to the defence of the western world.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Kent, the Duke of York and more than 4,000 American veterans of service in Britain, opened the new £11 million American Air Museum at Duxford, the Imperial War Museum airfield near Cambridge.

Aircraft old and new, led by a B17 bomber, flew overhead in a salute to the 30,000 American airmen who died flying from British bases during the Second World War.

One star was missing from the firmament of the famous and the decorated at yesterday's ceremony. A position of honour had been reserved for the former colonel in the US Army Air Force, Jimmy Stewart. The Hollywood veteran, who had been chief fundraiser in America for the museum appeal, died last month.

When he fell ill last year, he asked his fellow combatant, Heston, to take over his role. Heston, now 73, drew laughter when he confessed to having been a mere sergeant, and to feeling seriously outranked by the field-marshals and generals present yesterday.

Guests at the museum, designed by Sir Norman Foster and the largest precast concrete structure in Europe, included Sir Denis and Lady Thatcher, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, chairman of the Imperial War Museum, Dr Sheila Widnall, US Secretary of the Air Force, and Colonel Robert Morgan, whose missions from East Anglia inspired the film *Memphis Belle*.

The Queen and the royal party spent half an hour touring the 70,000sq ft museum, the largest collection of American combat aircraft outside the USA. Funding has come from the Lottery Heritage Fund, the Saudi Arabian royal family, and from thousands of American veterans who served on British bases.

The collection of 21 aircraft, some suspended from the roof as though in flight, includes Gulf War exhibits.

Opening the museum, the Queen said: "I have personal memories and experience of how the close relationship between our two countries over the years has been enhanced by the presence of the United States Air Force in the United Kingdom, and especially in this part of England."

American veterans had no trouble recalling their last visit. Bill Leasure arrived at Duxford in 1942 to fly B17 Flying Fortresses: "I remember being scared to death because we were one of the original groups sent over. But everyone was so friendly. There was a bit of a language problem to begin with because we couldn't understand what you guys were saying, but we soon caught on and I made some long-lasting friendships over here."

MAX NASH

Honouring American airmen who died flying from British bases: Charlton Heston, above, who felt seriously outranked yesterday, and below, the Queen meets Colonel Robert Morgan, the pilot of the *Memphis Belle*

NEWS IN BRIEF

£4m loan tycoon is new Tory treasurer

Sir Graham Kirkham, one of Britain's 50 richest men, who loaned the Conservative Party £4 million to avert a cash crisis, was appointed party treasurer yesterday. Sir Graham the chief executive of the DFS furniture chain, heads a new list of treasurers.

William Hague, persuaded Sir Graham to step into the breach left by Lord Harris of Peckham, the carpet tycoon, who virtually singlehandedly wiped out the party's multi-million pound overdraft for John Major. Lord Harris has decided to step down.

Jail increases

Tougher sentencing policies are putting more women and young offenders in jail according to figures issued yesterday. The number of women in prison rose last year by 14 per cent while jailed young offenders went up by 15 per cent. The number of women rose from 2,000 in 1995 to 2,300 last year and the number of young offenders went from 5,600 to 6,500.

Drugs supremo

The father of Leah Betts, the teenager who died after taking Ecstasy, said yesterday he wanted to be the Government's new drugs "czar". Paul Betts, a former police officer, said he would be applying for the post, advertised this week, of a high profile coordinator to lead the fight against substance abuse. He said he wanted to bring together the various anti-drugs organisations.

Doctor killed

A British doctor was shot and stabbed to death in a township of KwaZulu/Natal after his minibus was hijacked. Spence William Alexander, 38, was responding to an emergency call when he was attacked on Thursday. Bystanders took him to hospital where he died. He moved to the South African province in 1990 with his wife, also a doctor, and three children.

Toll trial

Leicester will introduce an experimental toll on a 2½-mile stretch of road into the city centre on Monday. A hundred volunteer motorists, ranging from businessmen to the unemployed and the elderly, are being credited with cash to pay the toll on in-car computers, triggered by roadside computers. Their alternative is to use park-and-ride buses.

MP's funeral

More than 800 mourners, including Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, gathered yesterday at Paisley Abbey to pay their last respects to Gordon McMaster, 37, the Labour MP for Paisley South who died this week. A private family service was held simultaneously at a funeral parlour in his home town of Johnstone.

Writers for Lords

Continued from page 1

thought for a moment I was being considered until I was approached two weeks ago," she said. "As I have always supported Labour it seemed natural to accept, and I shall view it as a second career."

She said she would be moving to London and that her husband Donald, a former political journalist for the *Daily Mail*, had already started to fill her in on the treacheries of Westminster. "He will be able to prepare me for what to expect," she said.

Mrs Rendell intends to take a particular interest in the arts and in women's issues. "I think the future of literacy in our children is very important, and I shall be a strong advocate of libraries," she said. "I will also be campaigning for the rights of abused women."

Although she was once a vocal supporter of CND, she said that she was no longer involved in the disarmament movement and would not be inclined to cause trouble over the issue.

Lollipops for all as Major resigns himself to keeping everyone sweet

Anthony Howard on a top-heavy honours list apparently at odds with the former Prime Minister's ideal of a classless society

ALTHOUGH a little top-heavy on peers — Harold Macmillan in his resignation honours in 1963 handed out only one peerage (and that went to his private secretary John Wyndham who had served him throughout his premiership on a salary of £1 a year) — today's Resignation Honours List will not raise many hackles.

Even its *Upstairs, Downstairs* tone is very much what is expected on such occasions: just as ambassadors count themselves lucky if they get a royal visit, and hence are appointed Knight Commander, Royal Victorian Order (KCVO) while *en poste*, so the staff at Chequers and their opposite numbers at No 10 must secretly pray for a change of Prime Minister during their period of duty. That, after all, is traditionally when the boat comes in.

But this time it seems to be a case of lollipops all round — with only poor Norman Lamont being banished from the feast. Certainly, as a one-time advocate of a classless society, the former Prime Minister has not visibly shrunk from promoting the continuing reign of rank and distinction. A Companionship of Honour for Michael Heseltine (who thus joins David Hockney as a member of that bizarre order), peerages for other Cabinet colleagues, knighthoods for lesser ministers and, finally, ribbons and gongs from the all-purpose Order of the British Empire for the rest.

Yet what sticks out about Mr Major's list is how inflationary it all is. He has dished out no fewer than ten peerages, where Margaret Thatcher in 1990 was quite content with seven. Nor is that by any means a true comparison — for the former leader has already had one substantial bite at the cherry with his list of working peers, issued in the election campaign, while another five of his former Commons colleagues get a further bite in Mr Blair's list of working peers. The whole thing is threatening to get out of hand — not least because what the House of Lords cries out for is reduction.

At least, however, Mr Major has chosen to reward people he knows — and presumably likes as well. The saddest thing about the most notorious Resignation Honours List of all — that issued by Harold Wilson in May 1976 — was not that it contained names that even the normally compliant Honours Scrutiny Committee would not let through: it was that a good number were not known personally to the Prime Minister — who, being an essentially lonely man, had to send people out into the hedgerows and byways to complete the list he thought would be expected of him.

No one can accuse Mr Major of running that kind of risk. He has come up with exactly the kind of nominations — high and lowly — that one would expect of someone who missed his vocation by allowing himself to be sidetracked from his obvious vocation to become his party's Chief Whip. In death, as in life, the fallen Prime Minister emerges as the great protector of the politicians' trade union — not a man for the mountain tops or the broad horizons but a very helpful fellow to have at your side when attempting to climb the steep and rugged pathway of contemporary British politics.

Honours, page 6

Breakaway group blamed for bomb

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

SECURITY sources yesterday said that republicans hostile to the new IRA ceasefire had placed the huge car bomb found outside a County Fermanagh hotel on Thursday night. The sources said the most likely culprits were a breakaway terrorist group called the Continuity Army Council, but did not rule out the involvement of dissident IRA members.

No one admitted planting the bomb, which could have killed scores of holidaymakers and destroyed the Carrybridge Hotel in the village of Lisbellaw, near Enniskillen, had it exploded. A statement issued by Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, merely called on all groups still engaged in armed actions to desist.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, condemned the attack, which seemed designed to destabilise the peace process.

Colin Beattie, owner of the 15-room family-run hotel, said that at around 9pm his daughter had noticed someone parking the car close to a hotel wall and walking away without turning the lights off. The barman could not find the car's owner. The receptionist then received a bomb-warning call from a man who repeated that "this is the real thing". A second warning call was made to a local priest.

The hotel and another 35 holidaymakers on boats moored in its marina were evacuated. Bomb experts carried out a controlled explosion. The Royal Ulster Constabulary said the Ford Orion contained between 500lb and 1,000lb of homemade explosive.

The Continuity Army Council, which launched a similar attack against a hotel in Enniskillen, in July 1996, is the paramilitary wing of Republican Sinn Fein, which has denounced the IRA ceasefire.

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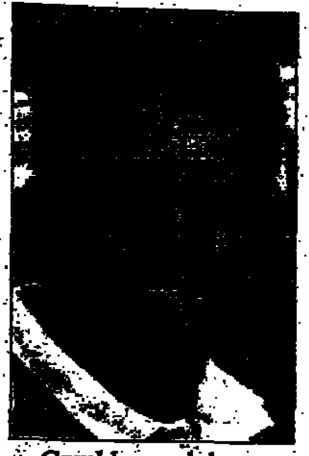
Purge on playing fields of England

Visiting colonials blamed for upsurge in bad behaviour at public school cricket games, Nicholas Wood reports

PUBLIC school headmasters are planning a purge of *unsporting* conduct on the cricket field amid mounting concern about bad language, cheating and dissent.

A move towards more fixtures against aggressive and noisy touring sides from Australian and South African schools, which model their tactics on their ruthless Test sides, is being blamed for the decline of the Corinthian spirit on the country's most exclusive playing fields. The bad example set by domestic *professional* and club cricketers, and the influence of television, are also causing concern.

Neil Gamble, head of the 700-pupil Exeter School, said he intended to press for a crackdown on bad behaviour at the next meeting of the sports committee of The Headmasters' Conference. "There is no question that the prevalence of sledging [verbally abusing] the batsman has increased markedly over the last five years and that has percolated down to schools, because once the school season is over boys go off and play in leagues around the country." Mr Gamble, a committee member at Devon County Cricket Club, added: "There is a lack of chivalry and honesty."



Gamble: crackdown

Pressure for action on the conference, which represents the country's top 240 fee-paying schools, follows a spat *in June* between *Marlborough* and Radley colleges that has led to the cancellation of all sporting fixtures between the two schools. Radley fielders were accused of verbally abusing the home batsmen, who reacted by refusing to declare, as is the custom in schools matches.

Alarm about declining standards of sportsmanship has been heightened by other ugly incidents in schoolboy cricket this summer. After an under-17 match in Kent, a boy was frogmarched into the opposition dressing room and forced to apologise to the whole side. His crime was spitting at the wicket-keeper after being bowled.

Some of the worst scenes came in a match between Tonbridge School — Lord (Colin) Cowdrey of Tonbridge's *alma mater* and one of England's *strongest* junior teams — and a visiting South African touring side, Grey's High School from Port Elizabeth. It was reportedly described by one master as the "most unpleasant game of cricket I have ever seen".

The umpires *had* to rebuke the Tonbridge captain after one of the South African batsmen complained that he had been called "a penis" by one of the fielders. But the South Africans also overstepped the mark. The umpires warned their captain about "backchat" from his fielders and reprimanded a bowler for showing dissent.

Paul Taylor, cricket master at Tonbridge, admitted that spectators at the match on *July 9, at the end of* a three-day festival, had been shocked by the racket coming from the ground. But the game had been particularly hard fought because both sides were striving to safeguard their unbeaten records.

"The difficulty is that you are asking boys to play very competitively and aggressively and intimidate through actions and not through words," Mr Taylor said. "Teaching that line is very *difficult* when they see what goes on in the professional game."

He was in no doubt that schoolboy cricket had changed in the past decade and that the trend for playing more matches against gritty ex-colonials was coarsening the English game. "Schools *cricket has got a lot harder in* the past ten years and with that there is a danger, we are well aware of, of losing that line. You have got to respect your opponents as people and cricketers. Once you cross that line you are in trouble."

Joe Townsend, who umpired the match, said that his fellow umpire had been dismayed by the boys' behaviour, which could be explained only by the prestige at stake. "He said that if it had *occurred at the start of the* festival he would not have wanted to come back."

Gerald Howat, schools cricket correspondent of *The Cricketer* magazine, who first reported the rift between Radley and Marlborough, said that headmasters were becoming increasingly wor*ried about bad behaviour on* the field. "Those in authority in cricket circles, including HMC schools, are aware that sledging and bad behaviour are on the increase, some of which is attributable to English schools apeing Australian and South African sides."

Mr Gamble said he expected other members of the conference committee would support a call for action at the meeting in October. "We will probably finish up making *representations to cricket* masters to make sure that the behaviour of their pupils on the field goes back to five to ten years ago."

Leading article, page 19
Cricket, pages 40 & 41

VINTAGE MAGAZINE CO

In the world of *Boy's Own*, spectating schoolboys showed nothing but silent respect for cricketers

THE VINTAGE MAGAZINE CO

Middlesex against Nottinghamshire at Lord's in 1802, when cricket was a game for gentlemen amateurs and "sledging" was unknown

Village club fears catch in £290,000 new ground

A VILLAGE cricket team has refused to use its new £290,000 ground for fear of spoiling its chances of winning the league for the first time (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The side from Studley Royal in North Yorkshire *became the envy of most* small clubs when it won £145,000 funding from the National Lottery towards new pitches and a pavilion. Another £20,000 came from Paul Sykes, the multimillionaire who offered to fund anti-European Community candidates in the general election and who lives in the village. Club members raised the rest.

The players were scheduled to move onto the eight-acre site at the start of the summer, but the early-*season drought left the pitch* without any grass. The team returned to the wicket where it has played for 100 years, next to a deer park. Now the wetter weather means the new pitch is ready for play, but the first team has refused to use it. Robert Sowray, 50, the club's former chairman, said: "They know every bump and crack on the old pitch and think a change at this vital stage of the season could cost them the title."

Studley Royal is third in the top division of the *Nidderdale League, four* points behind the joint leaders with four games to go. In 15 years it has never finished top. The club has 150 players — 50 more than the village population — in three senior and eight junior sides.

Benefit cheats made £100,000 in 'cottage industry' of fraud

By A Staff Reporter

FOR more than seven years *Lynne Price and her out-of-*work husband amazed neighbours by keeping six children in opulent style and taking extensive holidays abroad.

The couple made no secret of their wealth, furnishing their large bungalow in Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, in white leather, installing gold-plated bathroom fittings and laying fitted carpet throughout. Last night, however, they were both in jail after fraud investigators discovered their wealth had been based on a systematic abuse of the benefits system which amassed more than £100,000.

The children's 38-year-old mother, who is expecting her seventh child next month, wept as she was sentenced to four years at Cambridge Crown Court by Judge Jonathan Haworth, who condemned her as a "leech on the public purse". He described her as the undoubted brains behind the scheme, which she *operated with her barely liter*ate husband, Drewery Price. When investigators from the Department of Social Security raided their home they found £400 in cash and evidence of how she had accumulated more than £100,000 in high-interest savings accounts, many of them in her children's names. They also discovered tickets worth more than £3,000 for a holiday on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

Jailing Price and her husband, the judge condemned them as: "Cheats and frauds who plundered taxes paid by people working hard to make ends meet."

Price travelled miles to benefit offices across London and the South East, each time concocting a different family biography and history, giving precise dates of birth for various numbers of children and giving a permutation of addresses to collect benefit. Often she would take the *children along with her and* was scrupulous never to forget which lies she told at the different offices.

Andrew Williams, for the prosecution, described Price's fraudulent activities as "almost a full-time job, running all over the country servicing each of the false identities, signing on, cashing cheques. It was a virtual cottage industry".

She pleaded guilty to 16 specimen counts of cheating the benefits system. She also asked for ten similar offences to be taken into consideration.

A jury acquitted her husband of taking part in false accounting as they accepted he was not sufficently literate to fill out the claim forms. He *had told the court he could not* remember the genuine ages of his children and referred to the youngest — who is aged five — simply as "boy".

He told investigators he believed the family's lifestyle, *including a holiday in Cyprus* and a planned fortnight in the Caribbean, was paid out of a legacy from his mother-in-law and the generosity of his father-in-law. He was found guilty of four specimen charges of obtaining at least £15,000 benefit by deception over five years and jailed for four years.

Mr Williams described how Price would use addresses connected to her extended family and said she had enjoyed a comfortable upbringing in Edmonton, north London and had clearly been well educated before she married into the travelling community.

He said she always flaunted her wealth, from the expensive *gold jewellery to the decor in* the family's bungalow, which he described as "opulently if gaudily furnished — not all to our own taste, but nevertheless luxurious".

Crash victim lauds gallant Portillo

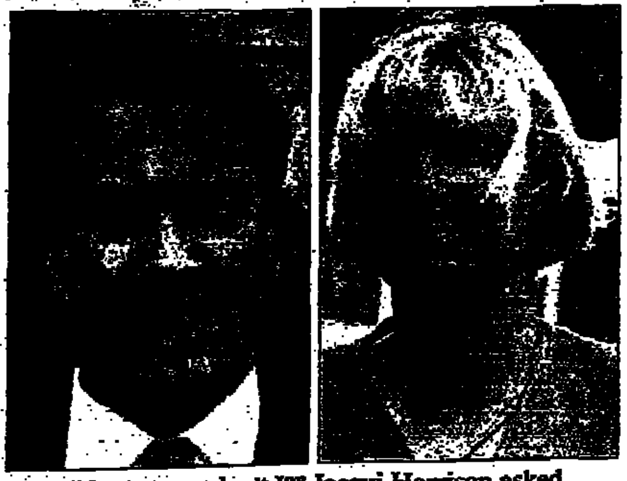
By Emma Wilkins

MICHAEL PORTILLO, the former Defence Secretary, behaved like an officer and a gentleman when a woman crashed her car into the Prince of Wales's gatepost.

Mr Portillo jumped from his official car to offer help to the woman, who had swerved to avoid another car outside Highgrove House, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

The account of Mr Portillo's gallantry was given at Cirencester Magistrates' Court where Stuart Rochester, 62, was found guilty of driving without due care and attention.

Jacqui Harrison, 28, told the court that she swerved to avoid Mr Rochester when he pulled out from *behind* a tractor driven by Tim Longhurst, a labourer at Highgrove. She crashed onto a grass verge and into the path of a car driven by a police officer, before hitting *the royal gatepost.*



"I know you, don't I?" Jacqui Harrison asked Michael Portillo as he helped her from her car

Mrs Harrison, of Bradley Stoke, Bristol, said that Mr Portillo jumped from his *Volvo to come* to her aid: "He was very kind and considerate to me. He opened my car door and asked if I was all right. As soon as I looked up, I recognised him. I said, 'I know you, don't I?' He just smiled and said, 'Never mind that, are you OK?' Luckily I wasn't injured and he helped me out of the car. He kept saying how brave I was and how calm I seemed after the crash."

Mr Portillo called the police and an ambulance on his mobile phone. He was on his way to the air tattoo at RAF Fairford when the accident happened in *July* last year. "Mr Portillo went on to his engagement after he was sure I was all right. He even sent his driver back to see if I needed a lift home. He couldn't have been any kinder," Mrs Harrison said.

Mr Portillo gave evidence of Mr Rochester's driving: "The car began to overtake the tractor. When he did that it was close to the bend. My immediate reaction was that it looked a very dangerous manoeuvre.

"A car appeared in the opposite direction coming around the bend. The driver took evasive action by swerving to the left."

Outside the court Mr Portillo, who lost his Enfield Southgate seat at the general election, said: "We were a bit shaken up. The lady in the car was incredibly plucky. She had been through a terrible experience."

Mr Rochester, an accountant from Gretton, Northamptonshire, was fined £200 with £140 costs and his licence was endorsed with *six points.*

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BSE cows 'suffer' in cash cuts stampede

Cattle for slaughter are jammed in markets, reports **Michael Hornsby**

CUTS by the Government in compensation for culled cows and in the number of abattoirs authorised to slaughter them are causing congestion at cattle markets and jeopardising animal welfare, say farmers and auctioneers.

Farmers with cattle more than 30 months old, which are banned for human consumption under BSE controls, have been been rushing to get their animals to slaughter before the compensation cut comes into force on Monday. Some cattle markets have been forced to hold animals in lairage, or holding pens, for several days because they cannot find abattoirs to take them.

Jim Watson, of Midland Marts, which runs Banbury market, Oxfordshire, said: "We had to hold about 500 animals in our lairage for four to five days, milking them and providing bedding and water.

"These were animals that should have gone to slaughter the day after we received them. But orders were cancelled at the last minute because the abattoirs could not handle them."

David Lock, of Premier Livestock Auctioneers, which runs the Yeovil and Frome markets in Somerset, said that he had been inundated with calls over the past two weeks from farmers wanting to unload old cattle.

"We have had to turn most of them down because we could not find abattoirs able to take the animals. We are probably not getting more than 50 cattle away a week in each of our markets at the moment under the 30-months scheme, compared with 250 a week previously."

In a report to be broadcast tomorrow by BBC1's *Country-File* programme, animal health inspectors working for Somerset County Council say they have been alarmed by the number of old and unhealthy cows being delivered to local markets and then facing long journeys to find abattoirs able to receive them.

Glen Berry, a council inspector, told the programme: "Many are 'old ladies' that have gone through bouts of mastitis and are lame. According to law, these animals should be taken to the nearest place of slaughter but there is no near place for them to go any longer."

From Monday the compensation for old cows will be cut from 64.9p to 57.7p per kilogram liveweight. In a further cost-cutting measure, the maximum weight on which the compensation will be paid will be 560kg, making a maximum of £323 per cow. Mike Lambert, of the National Farmers' Union, said: "Up to now you could expect to get compensation of £600 to £700 for a good fat suckler [beef] cow."

Last month, the Intervention Board, the government agency administering the cull, cut the number of abattoirs authorised to slaughter old cattle from 42 to 26.

The Government says the cut is a justified cost measure because the number of old cattle being slaughtered and destroyed has dropped sharply since late last year. At one point up to 50,000 a week were being killed but the average now was 13,000, mainly elderly dairy cows.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, dismissed the reports of market chaos as exaggerated and said that he had no evidence to support claims that cattle awaiting slaughter were not being properly looked after.

Twins share common bond in priesthood

Yvonne Clarke and her sister, Jennifer Thomas, yesterday: "We love being priests; it is more than a job"

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

JENNIFER THOMAS and Yvonne Clarke have become the first identical twins in Britain to be ordained women priests. The sisters, aged 38, have taken up positions in the Church of England with the diocese of Southwark in south-east London.

Mrs Clarke, who is married with three sons, is assistant curate of St Alban Mission Church in Mottingham. Miss Thomas has just been appointed vicar of Christ Church and St Paul in Forest Hill.

Mrs Clarke said: "Our parents are very proud of us. It is something we both always wanted to do.

"We have three brothers and another sister and I think our parents expected the boys to go into the church, not us girls. Jennifer and I are very close and we talk to each other about our work. We love being priests; it is more than a job."

☐ St Ethelburga, the medieval church in the City of London severely damaged by an IRA bomb in 1993, could be rebuilt in time for the millennium. The news came when the Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, announced yesterday that the architects Purcell Miller Tritton had been selected for the job of turning the ruins into a centre for reconciliation and peace.

A prominent City firm is understood to be considering a £1 million donation to the project to mark the turn of the millennium.

Learner, 17, tried to blame victim for death crash

By Shirley English

A TEENAGE learner driver was jailed for 18 months yesterday after trying to escape blame for a car crash in which his best friend died by claiming the dead youth was at the wheel.

David Paterson, 17, from Dunblane, Stirling, asked two surviving passengers to lie to police and to say that Nicholas Brown, 17, had been driving when the car hit a verge and spun out of control on a narrow country road. However, his plan to avoid prosecution failed when he owned up under police questioning.

Paterson, an unemployed garage mechanic, was a learner driver when he took his three friends for a spin in his 11-year-old Toyota Starlet in August last year. He had owned the car for three weeks.

The car hit a verge at speed, flipped over three times and skidded on its roof. Nicholas, who was in the front seat and was not wearing a seat belt, was thrown through the windscreen.

After the crash the survivors scrambled from the wreckage and Paterson tried to revive his friend by giving him the kiss of life. Moments later he asked Brian McFarlane, 17, and Steven Nairn, 18, to lie to police and say the dead youth had been driving.

Paterson was found guilty by jury a last month of driving the car dangerously at excessive speeds and causing the death of Nicholas, a graduate of nautical college. He also admitted driving a car that was not roadworthy, driving without insurance, an MoT certificate and on a provisional licence without L-plates. He was appearing for sentence yesterday at Stirling Sheriff Court. Six months of the sentence was for attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Service at grave of wreck victims

By A Staff Reporter

A CEREMONY yesterday commemorated what is thought to be a mass grave of black victims of a shipwreck 200 years ago. It is not clear whether those lying beneath the sands at Rapparee Cove, Ilfracombe, Devon, were slaves or prisoners of war being carried aboard the lost barque *London*.

More than 200 members of the Africa Reparations Movement, led by its founder, Bernie Grant, MP for Tottenham, attended the ceremony. "It brings to the fore the fact that Britain was involved in the slave trade, and ARM wants Britain to apologise and pay compensation," Mr Grant said. Supporters, in ethnic dress, beat drums, held prayers and observed three minutes' silence.

Pat Barrow, 48, an amateur archaeologist, found bones, teeth and a set of shackles he claimed came from prisoners aboard the 300-ton vessel, which sank *en route* from St Lucia, West Indies, to Bristol, in 1796. Mr Barrow said that records showed that the bones were those of African prisoners of war, but tests are now being carried out to find if they are African or European.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Football trial jury home for weekend

Jurors in the football match-fixing trial were given the weekend off after failing to reach verdicts. They had spent more than three hours deliberating after the judge's summing up at Winchester Crown Court yesterday. Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers, and a businessman, Heng Suan Lim, deny rigging match results.

Comic in court

The comedian Eddie Large appeared before Woodspring Magistrates, Somerset, charged under his real name, Edward McGinnis, with damaging a car. The case was adjourned to August 15.

Murder denial

David Frost, 21, denied at Bristol Crown Court the rape and murder of Louise Smith, 18, after a Christmas party in 1995. Mr Frost, a student, of Yate, Avon, was remanded in custody.

Strike ballot

The Fire Brigades Union is to ballot its 2,000 members in Manchester for strike action in a dispute over spending cuts which, it claims, will weaken emergency cover and lead to the loss of 36 jobs.

Butler jury fails

A jury failed to reach a verdict over a butler, Dennis Tyler, 63, accused of indecently assaulting his employer, Cicely Lancaster, 97, at Kelmarsh Hall, Northamptonshire. A retrial is being considered.

Spa runs dry

Taps at the pump rooms in Leamington Spa have been turned off after vandals damaged pipework carrying the mineral water from underground springs. Repairs are expected to take two months.

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Blair's choice to succeed Butler salutes tradition

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall editor

TONY BLAIR has chosen the candidate backed by the mandarins to succeed Sir Robin Butler, next January, as Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service.

The appointment of Sir Richard Wilson, currently Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, yesterday delighted officials, who saw him as a traditional public servant who would defend their interests. One Whitehall source said: "He is a natural fit for the purple."

Last night, Sir Richard was on his way to Arizona for a holiday with his 18-year-old son Tom. They are both avid Westerns fans and are looking forward to visiting the canyon lands and Monument Valley.

Sir Richard, 54, and his wife Caroline recently celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Lady Wilson, whose father Sir Frank Lee was a Treasury Permanent Secretary, teaches at a school near their home in the country. The couple also have a daughter, Amy, 16.

Sir Richard enjoys country life and gardening. The son of a solicitor who became secretary of the Church in Wales, he spent his early years in Newport, Monmouthshire and moved to the village of Llantarnam, near Cwmbran.

He attended Radley College and won an exhibition to study law at Clare College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar in 1965 and joined the former Board of Trade as an assistant principal 31 years ago. He held senior posts at the Treasury and the Cabinet Office before becoming Permanent Secretary at Environment and arriving at the Home Office in 1994.

The then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, had personally requested that Sir Richard be brought in as Permanent Secretary; he did not want a long-standing Home Office official in the job. Mr Howard had to take his case to No 10; John Major eventually ruled in favour of Sir Richard.

It had been thought that the new Labour Government might prefer a less orthodox appointment. In opposition the Labour leadership seriously considered splitting the role of Cabinet Secretary and that of the Head of the Home Civil Service.

The Prime Minister was still taking views in the middle of this week, and Sir Robin told his senior colleagues at the weekly meeting of permanent secretaries on Wednesday that he hoped a decision would be made before the weekend.

Mr Blair was impressed with Sir Richard, describing him to friends as "a dynamic character". After a lengthy interview with Mr Blair a week ago, Sir Richard was offered the job by the Prime Minister on Thursday.

Mr Blair paid tribute to Sir Richard yesterday, saying he was "an outstanding civil servant.

"I will be looking to him to implement our plans for simple government, in which the machinery of government works more effectively for the benefit of the people. He will be making sure we make greater use of new technology, both to serve the people and for more effective communication between departments."

It is understood that Andrew Turnbull, the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, was the other strong contender.

A Downing Street source last night said Mr Blair had decided against separating the roles of Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service because they complemented each other and "add authority, weight and insight to the occupant in both capacities".

One Permanent Secretary said last night: "Richard Wilson deserved this. He is very, very good, widely experienced and it was right that he was rewarded for putting up with the antics of Michael Howard in the last few years."

Another senior Whitehall source confirmed that Sir Richard had had frequent rows with Mr Howard. He did not enjoy the period of the contentious sacking of Derek Lewis as head of the Prison Service.

Sir Richard was close to Margaret Thatcher when she was Prime Minister. He was in charge of the economic secretariat at the Cabinet office and was closely associated with her economic reforms.

As one official put it: "He can shimmer without stain. It is exactly right that he can move effortlessly from one administration to another. He is the incarnation of the old public service ideal."

Sir Richard is known for his ability to give frank advice without offending and is loyal to staff, whom he "treats as human beings, not as man units". He is liked for his openness and humour and respected for his intellect.

Sir Richard Wilson, appointed Cabinet Secretary

ANDRE CAMARA

MPs paired: Andrew Mackay, 47, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary and member for Bracknell, and Julie Kirkbride, 37, the Tories' Bromsgrove representative, arriving yesterday for a service of blessing in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft at the House of Commons, after their marriage at a London register office

Commons powerless to punish former MPs

By Polly Newton, political reporter

THREE Tory MPs who were criticised following an inquiry into cash-for-questions allegations would have been recommended for suspension from the Commons if they still had their seats, the Standards and Privileges Committee said yesterday. It conceded that it was now powerless to take action.

All were censured by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, in his report last month. The committee said that it would have recommended a period of suspension for Michael Brown, Sir Michael Grylls and Tim Smith, and would also have considered recommending a period of suspension for Sir Andrew Bowden.

Members made clear that they were uneasy about the limitation on their powers to punish former MPs: "In a future report, we shall offer advice to the House on appropriate penalties and sanctions for members and former members involved in unacceptable behaviour."

The committee faces a much tougher test in the fifth and most controversial case dealt with by Sir Gordon in his report — that of Neil Hamilton. Sir Gordon found "compelling" evidence that Mr Hamilton received cash payments from Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, in return for lobbying services.

But the former Trade Minister, who lost his Tatton seat to the former BBC correspondent Martin Bell on May 1, has vehemently denied any wrongdoing and branded Sir Gordon's report "a miscarriage of justice".

Although the Commons rose for its 13-week summer break on Thursday, the committee will meet again on Tuesday to discuss Mr Hamilton. A full public apology by Tim Smith, the former MP for Beaconsfield, and his admission of a substantial part of the allegations against him, were acknowledged by the committee in its report yesterday.

Mr Smith was found by Sir Gordon to have accepted up to £25,000 in cash payments from Mr Al Fayed in return for lobbying services. But members rejected Mr Smith's query about whether he was being fairly judged, given the standards prevailing in the mid-1980s. His concealment of payments to press for action by ministers would have been a clear contempt of the House at any time since a House decision of 1941, it concluded.

It reached a similar conclusion about Sir Andrew Bowden, who was found by Sir Gordon to have failed to register a donation of £5,319 towards his election expenses from the lobbyist Ian Greer. Sir Gordon concluded that the payment was intended as a reward for lobbying and Sir Andrew — former MP for Brighton Kemptown — "probably knew it came originally from Mr Al Fayed".

The committee accepted Sir Gordon's findings that Sir Michael Grylls deliberately misled the Select Committee on Members Interests in 1990 by "seriously understating" the number of commission payments he had received from lobbyists in return for introducing clients to ministers. However, the committee did not accept Sir Gordon's finding that "Sir Michael's action in taking a commission payment for introducing a constituent to Mr Greer was unacceptable".

It said: "This was not against the rules. However, we believe such a payment to be wholly inappropriate."

Sir Michael stood down from his Surry North West seat at the election. The admission by Michael Brown, former MP for Cleethorpes, that he made an error of judgment in failing to register certain interests is acknowledged, as is his apology to the former standards and privileges committee.

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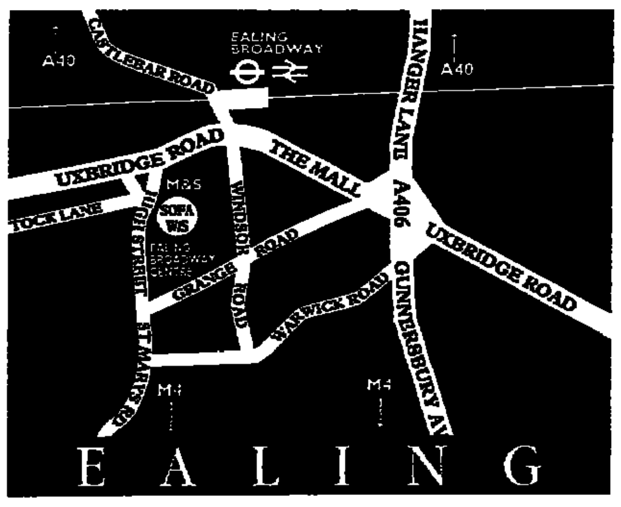

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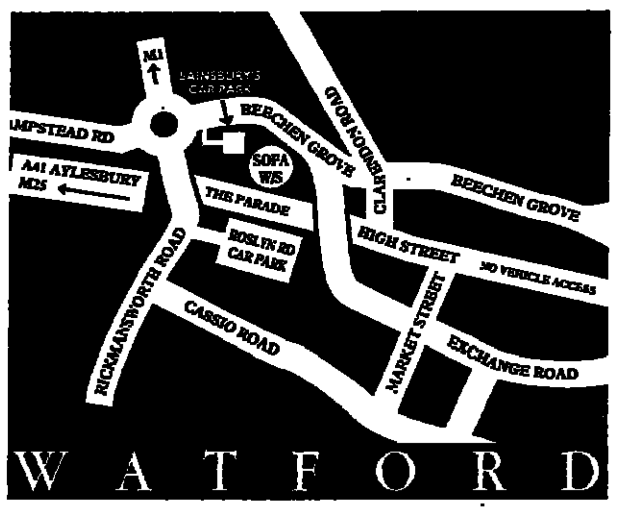

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Faslane peace camp prepares for battle

Gillian Bowditch visits 'the Ritz' as protesters act to make impending eviction more trouble than it's worth

Simon and friends take to the trees to resist efforts to evict them. "We are not going anywhere," he said

ANTI-NUCLEAR protesters at Britain's oldest peace camp are adopting tactics used in the Manchester airport siege to try to fend off their imminent eviction. The site,' opposite the Faslane submarine base on the Clyde, is regarded as the Ritz of peace camps: it has running water, two flushing toilets, a bath, a windmill generating power and its own postcode.

Established on June 12, 1982, the camp currently has around 40 multinational protesters living in a cluster of garishly painted caravans, benders and tents. The oldest residents are in their 50s and the youngest, Jake, is 3½.

At the height of the Thatcher era the camp was supported by Strathclyde Regional Council and Dumbarton District Council, which both declared themselves nuclear-free zones. It was granted legal status and protesters paid rent of £1 a month for the 100-yard strip of grass verge on which it is sited. Initially, planning permission was granted annually, then five-yearly and, eventually, indefinitely.

Now Argyll and Bute District Council, an independent local authority, has served a notice to quit on the protesters. Under its terms the camp should have been cleared by midnight on Monday. The council has been authorised to take "all necessary steps" to clear the camp and is planning court action to enforce the notice. A spokesman said there had been complaints from local people, although the protesters insist they have a lot of support.

For the time being, all is peaceful, although police patrols have been stepped up. The protesters are optimistic that the council will decide the eviction is too expensive and bad for its image and quietly drop the whole process.

To this end they are digging tunnels, building walkways in the trees and pouring concrete mixed with rubber into oil drums to which they will chain themselves in the event of a forced eviction: the rubber is to make the drills bounce around. The slogan "When freedom is outlawed only outlaws are free" has been carved on a piece of wood.

MARTIN GILFEATHER

A protester called Danny at the mouth of a tunnel. The campaigners also plan to chain themselves to concrete

While the council is taking stock of the situation, a number of councillors are keen to press ahead with the closure of what they regard as an eyesore. If they are successful, it will represent the end of an era. The Faslane camp is one of only two permanent sites in the country (the other is a women's camp at the American communications base at Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire) and is the only one to be legally recognised by a local authority. It boasts an office with a battered copy of *Jane's Fighting Ships*; it has a telephone and the binmen, postman and milkman make regular calls.

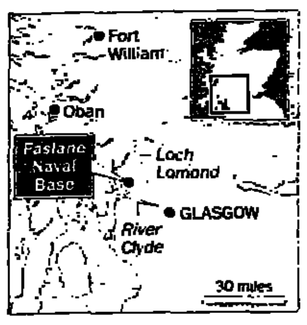
However, conditions are far from luxurious. The site is muddy and squalid and all the equipment is on its last legs. Even so, the residents are determined to stay. Simon, a twentysomething newcomer with part-long, part-shorn hair, several nose rings and flawless long purple fingernails, said: "We are not going anywhere. We will physically resist eviction. There are lots of people who will join us when the eviction starts.

"We still have to put the finishing touches to some of the tunnels and lock-ins, but we are already in a position where we can resist for long enough to make the eviction very expensive."

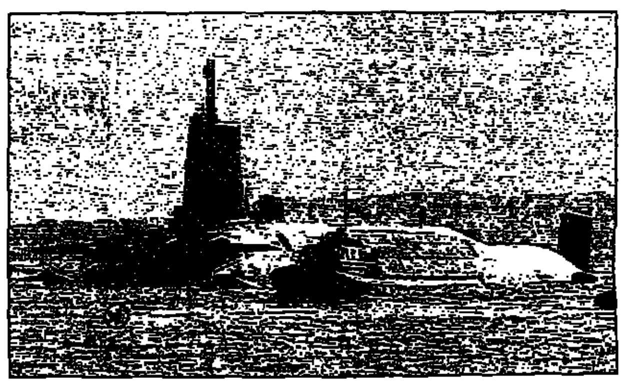
Maria Masone, a veteran of peace camps around the world, said the protesters wanted to give the council a chance to back down. "There is only one camp rule, no violence. Any protest will be 100 per cent non-violent."

The irony of surviving the Thatcher era only to be pushed out in the reign of new Labour is not lost on her. "There doesn't seem to be a lot of tolerance with this new Government," she said. "Obviously we have to wait and see, but Tony Blair seems to want to control everything. It is almost a sort of social engineering. Everyone here has a strict moral code about how they relate to society, but by marshalling people into work programmes and refusing them benefits if they don't conform they have become intolerant of that wonderful flexibility on the margins of society where people develop alternative lifestyles."

A woman called M. who has spent three years on and off at the camp, explained its role. "We keep an eye on all the comings and goings at the naval base. We call it the Nuke Watch. There is a log book going back 15 years which is kept up by whoever is here."



Jim Chestnut, 45, who, with Jane Tallents, vice-chair of Scottish CND, was one of the earliest protesters at the camp, said: "The danger is not that some madman will press a button and start a nuclear war. The danger is that these submarines are getting old. They are situated in a built-up area. There could be an accident. It is a vital job. Maybe the new Labour Government should sponsor us."


In a protest in 1992, a CND activist jumped into the Clyde in the path of the submarine *HMS Vanguard*

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IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY (MORE OR LESS): DOMINIC KENNEDY CELEBRATES A RETURN TO THE DAYS OF CRYPTIC ROCK ALBUM COVERS

Parents hold key as Oasis play the generation game

Sgt Pepper: the album that had fans guessing

THE biggest guessing game in rock music for a generation has been launched by Oasis, whose new album, *Be Here Now*, features a sleeve design packed with riddles and obscure symbolism redolent of The Beatles' *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

Fans are pestering their parents for memories of the debate provoked by the elaborate Sgt Pepper cover, issued on June 1 1967 and peppered with imagery widely interpreted as clues that Paul McCartney was dead.

The parallels become acute when one learns that Oasis recorded part of *Be Here Now* in the same No 2 studio in Abbey Road, London, which The Beatles used for their 1967 album, released three days after the songwriter Noel Gallagher's birth. On the cover of Sgt Pepper a toy car can be seen on a zebra crossing. The Beatles echoed the imagery on the cover of *Abbey Road in 1969 and*, for some fans, perpetuated the myth that Paul was dead by picturing him in black, barefoot and out of step on the crossing near the studio in Abbey Road. In the background can be seen a police van with the registration number SYO 724F. And guess where that registration crops up again? On the number plate of a Rolls Royce on the new Oasis cover.

"I am glad," said John Harris, Editor of *Select* magazine. "We are back to the halcyon days of cryptic album covers that will make a conspiracy theorist's life an absolute joy. The Internet is throbbing with this stuff."

Even the simplest of clues on the cover of *Be Here Now* is capable of multiple interpretations. Mr Aizlewood explained that a car in the swimming pool was clearly a reference to Keith Moon, The Who's late "wildman" drummer who was in the habit of parking Rolls Royces in pools. Keith Moon used to go to parties at Stocks Hotel Golf and Country Club, where photographs for the album cover were taken.

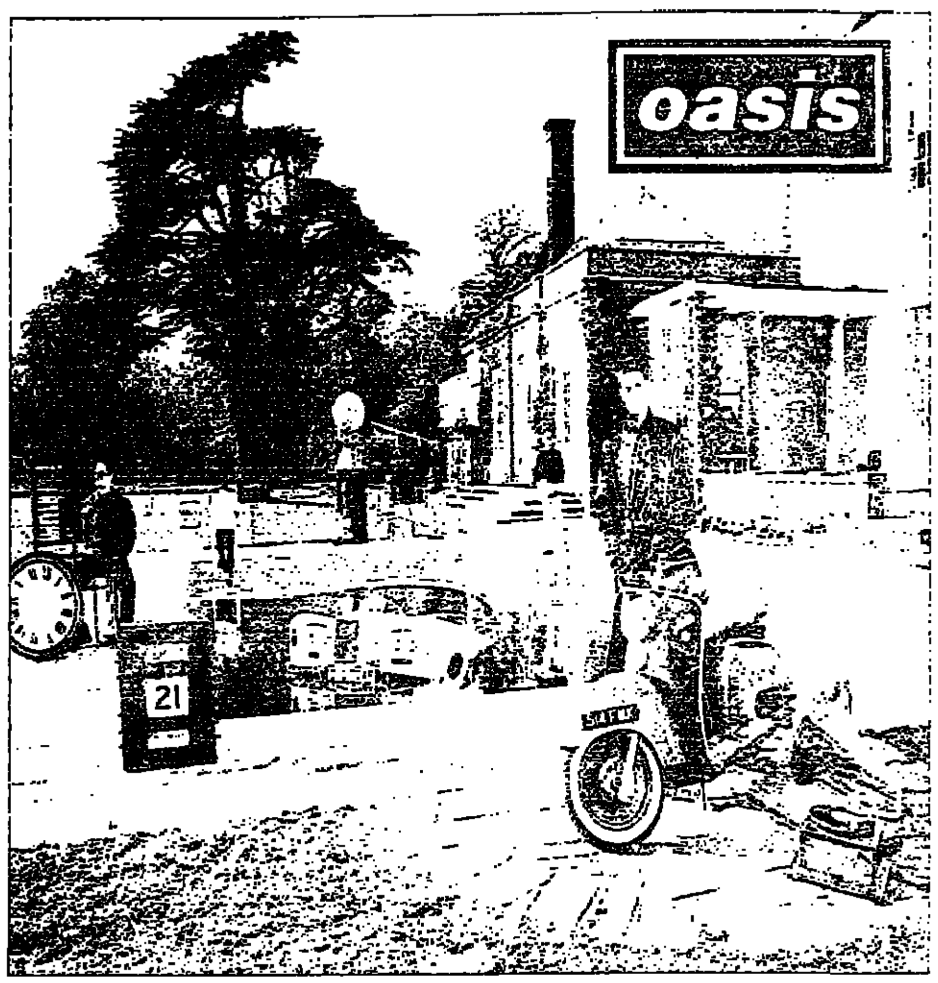
In the background of *Be Here Now*, Noel Gallagher looks through a telescope, as did Ringo Starr in the film *Magical Mystery Tour*. The parking meter refers to *Lovely Rita, Meter Maid*, the traffic warden's anthem on *Sgt Pepper*, while the wind-up gramophone is the logo of Parlophone, The Beatles' old record label.

Among other famously obscure album covers, The Small Faces *Ogden's Nut Gone Flake* in 1968 opened to show a picture of a tobacco tin with rolling paper that said "Sus" on it. That showed that the box was suspect, because the album name referred to their favourite tobacco for mixing cannabis joints.

In a corner of the cover of the 1972 album *Sailin' Shoes*, by Little Feat, Mick Jagger is pictured dressed as Gainsborough's Blue Boy, for no obvious reason. The LP also shows a cake on a swing being approached by a giant snail.

One mystery which nobody has solved is the choice of the date Thursday August 21 on the calendar on the front of *Be Here Now*. It is the release day of the album, an oddity in itself because most records arrive in the shops on a Monday, and so has been deemed to have great symbolic importance.

August 21 was the date when Sting married his girlfriend in London in 1992, but that seems an unlikely allusion. The most significant event for the Gallagher brothers on August 21 was in 1988, when Britain's licensing laws were liberalised. "That must be it," said Mr Harris. "They hate Sting."



Echoes of yesterday: the new Oasis album is a goldmine of obscure imagery. The meaning of the numberplate on the scooter, a Mod icon, remains a mystery

Judges back U2

THE Irish rock group, U2 yesterday won a legal battle to stage two concerts for 80,000 fans in Dublin's Lansdowne Road rugby ground on August 30 and 31. The Irish Supreme Court overturned a decision by the city's High Court, which had backed local residents who said planning permission was needed.

Charity sell-out

All 4,500 tickets for a concert in aid of Montserrat sold within 90 minutes yesterday. They went on sale just as the Caribbean island's Soufrière volcano, which in two years has killed 20 people and uprooted thousands, erupted again. The Albert Hall concert on September 15 includes Elton John, Eric Clapton and Sting.

Roman site 'was a prison camp for Britons'

By Robin Young

BRITONS may have been prisoners in one of the first concentration camps, as well as being the inventors of the modern version.

It has been accepted that the British devised the camps in South Africa during the Boer War. Now it appears that Ancient Britons may have been incarcerated in something similar after fighting the Romans 18 centuries earlier.

Archaeologists have long puzzled over who were the original inhabitants of circular buildings at Vindolanda fort on Hadrian's Wall, which were first discovered in 1931 by Professor Eric Birley. His son Robin, director of the Vindolanda Trust, near Haltwhistle, Northumberland, said yesterday: "No other Roman fort has circular buildings like these. We have discovered the whole of the 2nd-century fort was flattened for these huts and a new garrison."

Mr Birley thinks there could have been up to 200 huts, built back-to-back in rows of five and holding up to 1,000 people. He said: "We know that the Romans were putting down a native rebellion in Scotland between Edinburgh and Aberdeen from 208 to 211. It appears they took hostages from the defeated tribes. If these had just been male prisoners they would have been kept in barracks, but each hut is big enough for a family. They are very similar to native huts — about six metres in diameter. They had ovens and hearths which suggest they held family groups.

"Also, they had stone foundations and floors, probably built by the Romans, and would have had wattle-and-turf walls built by the natives.

"They may have been here only six months before the huts were destroyed and the new fort built on top. We assume the people were sent home."

Diggers found no evidence of pottery or jewellery associated with Roman life around the buildings. Soil sample analysis is still awaited.

Hotelier catches a crab over recipe for local soup

By A Staff Reporter

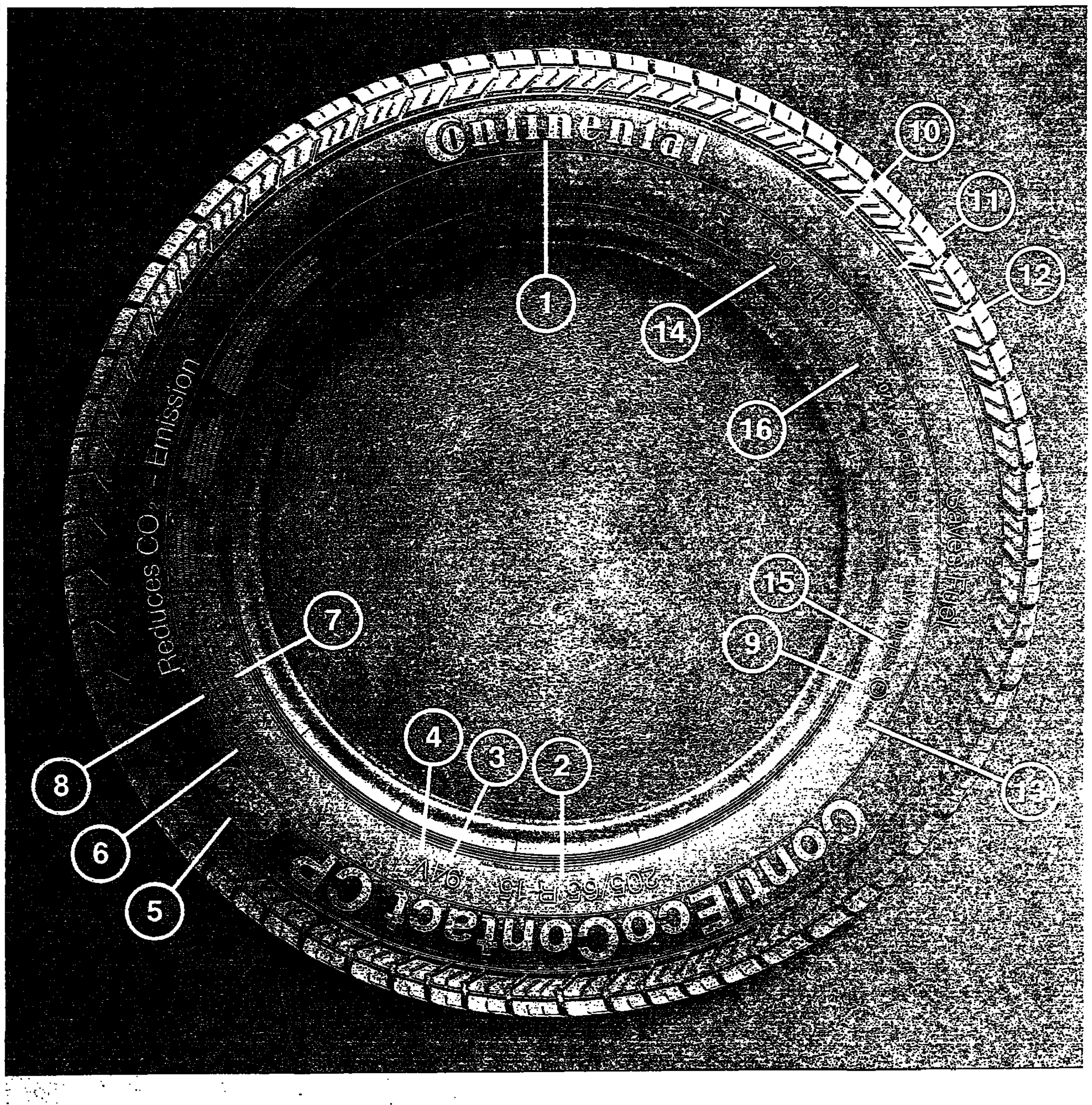
A HOTELIER was fined £100 yesterday for polluting her Cornish crab soup with foreign bodies — Norwegian crabs. Majorie Ross, 79, the owner of the Port Gaverne Hotel, near Port Isaac, was ordered to pay £220 costs after admitting displaying a label which was likely to mislead.

"The only thing Cornish about the soup was that the tin was in Cornwall when it was opened and the soup was exposed to the local air for a fleeting moment," Roger Tregidga, for the prosecution, told magistrates at Bodmin. Trading standards officers visited the 17-bedroom hotel after a holidaymaker, Jacqueline Pool, thought the taste of the £2.95 dish was a little too "commercial" for her liking.

When she walked past a cupboard at the hotel she saw row upon row of tins labelled "Lusty Crab Bisque". When she later complained to Trading Standards officers they went to the hotel and a sample was sent away to the Public Analyst — who discovered the crab was from Norway.

Michael Hartley, for the defence, said the company that supplied the crabs had changed hands and Mrs Ross believed it was still supplying her with Cornish crabs. "Over the years she has served thousands of gallons and has received many compliments from patrons. The hotel has a very high reputation nationally," he added.

***Mrs Ross said later:* "Everyone thought the soup was excellent. Several asked for the recipe."**



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4. Speed rating. For cars, this ranges from 'S' to 'Z' - the higher the letter, the greater the speed capability. 'V' means this tyre is capable of sustained speeds up to 150mph. Please just take our word for it.
5. Coefficient of Rolling Resistance. This is the rolling resistance of the tyre expressed as a percentage of wheel load. In plain English, the lower the rolling resistance of the tyre, the lower your fuel consumption. A figure of 1.0 or less is every tyre engineer's aim.
6. USA law requires the maximum load rating per wheel to be shown.
7. More construction details - music to a Continental tyre engineer's ears. Under the tread of this tyre there are 5 plies (belts): 1 rayon, 2 steel, 2 nylon.
8. The maximum inflation pressure. USA law requires this to be shown.
9. E = tyre complies with nominal values to ECE standard R30. (A Good Thing.)

10/11/12. Manufacturer's guarantee that the tyre meets USA requirements for tread life expectancy, braking performance and temperature stability at higher speeds.

13. Approval number to ECE standard R30 for this tyre. (See: we told you it was a good thing.)
14. The Department of Transportation oversees tyre safety standards in the USA. (Or 'tire' safety as they call it.)
15. Tyre construction type. This tyre, like all modern tyres, is tubeless.
16. Manufacturer's code for tyre factory, size, type and week and year of manufacture. Our engineers would like to autograph all their work, but we have to draw the line somewhere.

Memorise all this fascinating information, and you'll be able to swap tyre anecdotes all evening. You'll also be able to make a well-informed decision next time you have to choose a new tyre.

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Choice of candidate 'cost us victory'

Labour activists in Uxbridge say selection procedure handed Tories victory, reports **Polly Newton**

SIMON WALKER

Tory first: supporters at The Turning Point pub in Uxbridge salute John Randall and William Hague as they celebrate the party's first by-election victory since 1989

LABOUR was accused from within its own ranks yesterday of throwing away victory in the Uxbridge by-election because of its choice of candidate.

The attack on the party's selection procedure came as William Hague, the Conservative leader, visited Uxbridge to congratulate local Tory activists on their success. John Randall won with a majority of 3,766, an increase of more than 3,000 on the 724 margin of the late Sir Michael Shersby on May 1.

But as the Tories were enjoying the aftermath of their first by-election victory since Mr Hague won the North Yorkshire seat of Richmond in 1989, the Labour leadership was under fire for, in effect, imposing a candidate on the local party.

The National Executive Committee drew up a shortlist for the seat which excluded David Williams, who stood for Labour in Uxbridge at the general election. Andrew Slaughter, the leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council, was selected by the local party from the shortlist.

Peter James, chairman of the Labour group on Hillingdon council — which covers Uxbridge — said: "Far from the Tories winning this election, I think the Labour Party did a very good job at losing this election."

He said Mr Williams, the leader of the council, should have been the Labour candidate. "I am convinced that if he had been standing, we would have been waking up this morning with a Labour MP."

Mr Williams himself said he was not sure whether he would have won. But he acknowledged that he had heard on the doorsteps that people would have voted for him had he been Labour's choice.

"It was always going to be an uphill struggle and, if I had have been the candidate, the position would have been that it would have been a hard fight," he told *The World at One* on Radio 4.

The Tories admitted privately that they might have lost if Mr Williams had been chosen. However, Fraser Kemp, the Labour MP who acted as Uxbridge campaign manager for the party, said it had operated the same procedures for selection of candidates in by-elections for a decade. "Those procedures have served us well," he said.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, also defended Mr Slaughter's selection. "We knew we lost some terrible by-elections when constituency parties selected them, because special pressures do come on people in by-elections," he said. The procedure had been agreed by the party and was used for every by-election.

He added: "It is true that the Tories made a great deal of this local candidate and it was one of the factors in the election."

Lord Parkinson, the Conservative Party chairman, said the result reflected Labour's "arrogance" in ditching Mr Williams. "There was just this unease that was creeping into the minds of local people. These people think they own the country and it is time we told them that they had better be a shade less arrogant," he said. "If we had lost people would have said this is really the beginning of the end. Now people see that there are a substantial number of Conservatives who didn't vote for us at the general election for one reason or another and are beginning to come back to us," he told the Radio 4 *Today* programme.

Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrats' campaign manager, said voters had seen the by-election as a two-horse race. "I think Labour will have learnt a lesson in that parachuting a candidate from outside was taken by local people as a bit of a slap in the face for the local community."

Leading article, page 19

HOW THEY VOTED

John Randall (C)	16,288
Andrew Slaughter (Lab)	12,522
Keith Kerr (L/Dem)	1,792
Lord Sutch (Raving Loony)	396
Tory majority	**3,766**
Total vote 31,867	**Turnout 55%**

Ian Anderson (National Democrat): 157; Ronnie Carroll (Emerald Rainbow Islands Dream Ticket Party): 30; James Feisenberger (UKIP): 39; Julia Leonard (Socialist Party): 259; John McCauley (National Front): 110; Henry Middleton (Original Liberal Party): 69; Frances Taylor (British National Party): 205.

Gen election: Sir Michael Shersby (C) 18,095; D Williams (Lab) 17,371; A Malyan (LD) 4,528; G Aird (Ref) 1,153; J Leonard (Soc) 398. **C majority 724**

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Yvette Cooper, 28, is one of four newcomers on the "ring of secrecy" committee, chaired by Tom King

Blair selects young guard for defence of the realm

Michael Evans on new members of the parliamentary security committee

ONE of the youngest new Labour MPs is to join the "elder statesmen" of the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, which monitors MI6, MI5 and GCHQ.

Yvette Cooper, 28, a former journalist, was selected by Tony Blair for the so-called "ring of secrecy" committee which previously had an average age of 63. By tradition it consisted of experienced parliamentarians, many with ministerial knowledge of the intelligence services.

The Prime Minister has also chosen for the committee Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, who was an MI6 intelligence officer from 1969 to 1991. Baroness Ramsay, 61, served in Stockholm, Helsinki and MI6 headquarters in London. The committee will remain under the chairmanship of the Conservative MP Tom King, former Northern Ireland Secretary and Defence Secretary.

Ms Cooper is 22 years younger than the next youngest committee member, newly appointed Kevin Barron, Labour MP for Rother Valley. She was an economic columnist and leader writer at *The Independent* before she was elected in May and is engaged to be married to Ed Balls, personal adviser to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Her work with the committee will mean access to the most secret material. One Westminster source said: "There are things which she will not be allowed to discuss with her fiancé, and presumably things he will not be able to discuss with her." Former colleagues described her as "frighteningly controlled" and discreet.

Ms Cooper, who gained a 25,725 majority in Pontefract and Castleford, was an economic researcher for the late John Smith while he was Opposition leader and was a policy adviser to President Clinton's election campaign in 1992. She lists her recreations as swimming, painting and watching soap operas.

The fourth new member of the nine-strong committee is Dale Campbell-Savours, 53, Labour MP for Workington.

Mr King said he had wanted members with penetrating minds. It was not the job of the committee to "snuggle up" to the intelligence services but to ask pertinent questions on behalf of Parliament and the public.

The new members will be allowed to see all the classified papers that were made available to the previous committee, appointed under the Conservative Government. Those with no experience of the intelligence services would be expected to "catch up" with the background secret material during the summer recess, he said, but would not be allowed to take the documents home. "They will have to read them at the Cabinet Office," Mr King said.

He plans to summon the heads of MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, the electronic eavesdropping centre, to appear before the new committee, which will have its first meeting in October. The other members are Alan Beith, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, Barry Jones, Labour MP for Alyn and Deeside, Michael Mates, former Tory Northern Ireland Minister, and Allan Rogers, Labour MP for Rhondda.

The meetings are always held in camera.

One of the principal concerns of the committee has been the potential for security leaks and foreign penetration of the intelligence agencies. This follows the discovery of Russian-controlled spies in the CIA and FBI.

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Gregory and John McNamara.

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Couples should undergo trial marriage, says cleric

Ruth Gledhill on a call to revive the medieval practice of living together before making a lifelong commitment

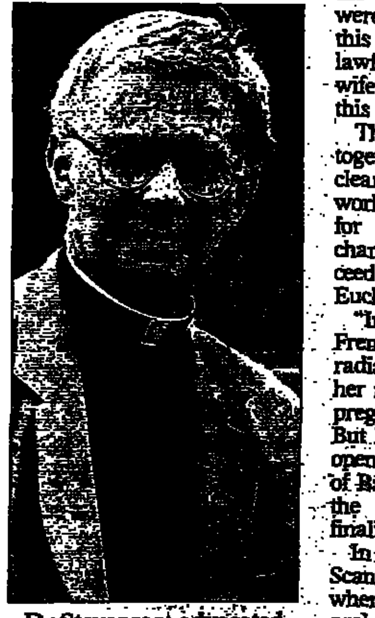
COUPLES who want to marry should have a formal church blessing allowing them to live together first to "test their vocations" to each other, according to a leading Anglican theologian.

The Rev Beaumont Stevenson, a clergyman in the Oxford diocese, says the Church should bless formal betrothals, as it did in the Middle Ages. This would allow couples to find out about each other before they make a vow of lifelong commitment to each other.

In a paper submitted to the *Church Times*, Dr Stevenson calls for liturgists who are revising the marriage service for the millennium to return to the traditional "two-step procedure" of church weddings.

His proposal comes a week after government statistics showed that few people attach any importance to remaining chaste until marriage and that more than four in ten couples who choose a white wedding are already living together.

Dr Stevenson, former chaplain of Keble College, Oxford, and pastoral care adviser to the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, says that for several hundred years, the Church has failed to take marriage seriously.



Dr Stevenson: advocated time to "test vocations"

"On the one hand, it extols marriage as the highest state in which sexuality can be expressed, while on the other it has made entry into the married state so lax and automatic that virtually anyone living within a parish who applies to be married can do so," he says.

In this respect, marriage differs from other church practices. "Someone wishing to become ordained or to enter a religious community goes through a discernment process where they test their vocation to that state," says Dr Stevenson.

The Church once had a similar procedure for marriage, but dropped it after the Reformation. In the Middle Ages, it was imperative to know if a marriage would work because no divorce was allowed, and also in order to discover if a bride could become pregnant.

The couple would participate in a service of betrothal at the church door, where they were asked if they would take this man or woman to be their lawful wedded husband or wife "to have and to hold from this day forward".

They then set up home together and, when it became clear the marriage would work, would return to church for the final vows at the chancel steps, and then proceed to the high altar for the Eucharist.

"In many paintings of French weddings, the bride is radiant for the final vows of her marriage by being nicely pregnant," Dr Stevenson says. But he notes the process was open to abuse. Chaucer's Wife of Bath married five times at the church door without finalising her vows.

The Wife of Bath: Chaucer's character took advantage of the medieval practice of living together while betrothed: "housbondes at chirche dore she hadde fyve"

In some countries, such as Scandinavia and Scotland, where sexual relations were prohibited outside marriage, engaged couples were allowed to sleep in the same beds but were sewn up in different sleeping bags in a custom known as "bundling".

The medieval practices died out in England after the Reformation, when married clergy were allowed for the first time. Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753, which defined marriage by law for the first time, further formalised the situation, bringing an end to secular practices such as marking a marriage by jumping over a broom together in front of witnesses.

The betrothal service did not disappear but was tacked on to the beginning of the marriage service. Not only has this debased marriage, but clergy are now powerless to stop any marriage they feel might not work out, Dr Stevenson says.

"There is no time set aside for discernment or working towards a married state," he says. "The couple are expected to make an infallible choice of partner for life based on a time when they may be so romantically in love with each other that they have no idea how life would be together when the hormonal narcotic wears off."

Dr Stevenson, 57, who is also a psychotherapist and teaches counselling at Oxford Brookes University, is not married and does not live with anyone, but says if he did wish to marry he would first set up home with his future wife.

He is proposing that the Church should separate the two services again. "People could come to church as much as six months or a year ahead and do a formal betrothal. They could then, when they felt ready, go forward to the married state once they had suitably tested their vocation with arrangements set up for reflection along the way."

He says the service could be open to any couple who wished to have their relationship blessed by the Church, including gay and lesbian couples.

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Credo

Why we may need to do less for God

Nigel McCulloch

YEARS ago, when our younger daughter Liz was small, she suffered from St Vitus's dance. Known medically as Sydenham's chorea, this now rare condition manifests itself chiefly in being unable to keep still.

The link between the illness and St Vitus is obscure. Possibly a 4th-century Sicilian martyr during the persecution of the Roman emperor Diocletian, Vitus is *said to have been boiled in* oil together with his old nurse. Subsequently associated with various bodily ills, his name became synonymous with the almost convulsive symptoms of agitated movement which I remember so anxiously observing in my daughter.

Thankfully, Liz has long since made a full recovery. But our society seems itself to have developed a condition similar to that which she once suffered, namely, the inability to be still.

The ceaseless round of activity, and consequent stress, which so characterises life today may well be a significant reason why, for many people, God appears to have little or no acknowledged significance in what they are or do. That is hardly surprising. The style of living in much of current society militates against any inclination to be reflective. Indeed, much of what we are about seems to be diametrically opposed to the divine command echoed so memorably in Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God."

Nor, alas, is the Church immune from this lack of stillness. For example, the present Decade of Evangelism led, especially at first, to a plethora of extra activities. *Clergy and their parishes* found themselves under an often unbearable pressure to do more.

The astute observation of St Vincent de Paul in the 17th century remains cannily apposite: "It is a trick of the Devil, which he employs to deceive good souls, to incite them to do more than they are able, in order that they may no longer be able to do anything." Mounting extra events is invariably the antithesis of what is required to bring people closer to an experience of God.

In the history of the Christian Church, there have always been those who have seen it as their vocation to draw apart and wait quietly *upon God. For example, St* Antony of Egypt, the founder of monasticism (on whose feast day I was born and whose life of extended self-discipline and solitude has long intrigued me), spent most of his time praying, studying and doing such manual work as was necessary to earn his living. He came to know God through the stillness.

Others have spoken of the addictive dangers of noise and busyness — and how these can block our path to God. Whittier's popular hymn, *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*, puts the point memorably. Itself written about addiction, the *hymn asks that God may* drop His still dews of quietness till all our strivings cease; and that He may replace our strains and stresses with ordered lives — and the beauty of His peace.

An earlier and less familiar verse refers tellingly to a problem which is at the root of our own modern spiritual malaise. It mentions "Our words and works that drown / The tender whisper of Thy call". Recognition that our words and works, well intentioned though they may be, do often drown His call is crucial to the reawakening and deepening of spirituality that is needed both corporately and individually throughout the Church *today*.

All too often — and I suspect this is true for most of us on the Christian way — busyness relentlessly takes over. Without recognising the symptoms, we become infected by the disease of activism.

One of my top priorities as bishop is to put time aside to see each one of my parish priests every year — personally to keep in touch and to listen to how things are. In these valuable times together, I recognise in many of them the tensions which so often I face within myself — about getting the balance right between necessary stillness with God and necessary pastoral activity among His people.

Michael Ramsey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, remarked 30 years ago that there was little enough, amidst the noise even of that time, of the quiet waiting upon God which is at the heart of our religion. He quoted the 13th-century St Dominic's great description of the Christian way, "*Contemplare et contemplata aliis tradere*" — to contemplate and to pass on to others the things contemplated. And he asked a question even more tellingly pertinent today. Is our weakness in the *second due to our being* often too busy for the first?

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch is Bishop of Wakefield and chairman of the Church of England's Mission, Evangelism and Renewal Committee.

Lloyds TSB Group results for the first half of 1997

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	Half-year to 30 June 1997 (unaudited) £m	Half-year to 30 June 1996 £m	Half-year to 31 December 1996 £m
Profit before tax and write-down of finance leases	1,504	1,130	1,375
Write-down of finance leases	(58)	–	–
Profit before tax	1,446	1,130	1,375
Tax	356	372	414
Profit after tax	1,090	758	961
Minority interests	5	68	76
Profit attributable to shareholders	1,085	690	885
Dividends	283	214	478
Earnings per share	20.4p	13.7p	17.5p
Dividends per share	5.3p	4.2p	9.0p

Financial information for the year ended 31 December 1996 is based on the statutory accounts for 1996 which have been delivered to the registrar of companies. The auditors' report on these accounts was unqualified and did not include a statement under sections 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

The interim dividend of 5.3p per share will be paid on 10 October 1997 to shareholders registered on 15 August 1997. Shareholders who have completed a mandate under the share dividend scheme will receive new shares instead of the cash dividend.

Copies of the news release containing full details of the results may be obtained from Investor Relations, Lloyds TSB Group plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS (telephone: 0171 356 1273).

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Hamas plot to bomb New York foiled

Only an apparent change of heart by a room-mate averted an alleged terror raid by Islamic militants on the subway, writes **Tunku Varadarajan** in New York

AN ALLEGED plot by Hamas extremists to bomb the New York subway, certain to have caused carnage on a massive scale, has been foiled "less than a day away" from its execution after one of the conspirators underwent a change of heart and disclosed the plans to the police.

The confession led officers to a seedy flat in Brooklyn, where police arrested three men. Two were injured when police opened fire on them as they lunged for what appeared to be explosive devices. The flat was described later as "a veritable bomb factory", and the absence of timers and remote-control detonators has convinced investigators that the men had intended a suicide attack.

The FBI and the New York Police Department, who are handling the case jointly, named the men in the apartment as Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer, 23, Lafi Khalil, 22, and Abdul Rahman Mossabah, 31. The first two are Palestinians with Jordanian passports, while the latter is believed to be an Egyptian Muslim cleric. According to the police statement the men were part of a "plan to target US and Jewish interests worldwide".

After initial doubts, investigators are now convinced that the men belong to Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, based in the West Bank and Lebanon.

President Clinton yesterday praised police for foiling the alleged plot but said it was too early to draw conclusions.

"I think it's important not to reach conclusions before we have ironclad evidence to support them," he said. "The main thing we need to do is to thank the law enforcement officials for what they did and to to heighten our vigilance."

Abu Mezer, who is recovering from gunshot wounds in hospital, has told investigators that he and his accomplices had intended to target the Atlantic Avenue station in Brooklyn, a key commuting nexus that includes ten subway lines and a Long Island Railroad terminal.

Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, said one of them had told police that he "supported" the recent bombing in Jerusalem and "was gratified that it had occurred".

Yesterday full details emerged of how the plot was foiled. Late on Wednesday night a man, waving his hands frantically, flagged down a police car. He was screaming in Arabic, and repeatedly uttered the word "bomba" as he made gestures to mimic an explosion.

The man, named as Mohammed Chindluri, was questioned by police through an interpreter. "My room-mates are going to follow up on Jerusalem," he is alleged to have said. Police cordoned off the four-storey building in which Mr Chindluri's co-conspirators were asleep and evacuated buildings nearby, waking up startled residents. They burst into the apartment where the men lived. Two of them appeared to reach for explosive devices, and police opened fire, wounding them. The third man was unhurt.

Officers combing the apartment found pipes packed with explosives and nails, wrapped together and equipped with "toggle-switch" detonators. However, they did not find any remote-control devices or timers.

Howard Safir, the New York police commissioner, said that the material in each of the five bombs was powerful enough to kill anyone within 25ft of the detonation within an enclosed space. The aborted plot has served as a grisly reminder of New York's extreme vulnerability in the face of a terrorist attack, exposed so spectacularly in February 1993 when a bomb exploded beneath the World Trade Centre, killing six people.

It has also raised alarming questions about the preparedness of the city's police. The plot caught them totally unawares, and was foiled only as an apparent stroke of good fortune. There was no evidence yesterday of any additional security on the subway.

Arrested man 'went to US in search of better life'

By Ross Dunn

NEW YORK police raiding the bomb plot suspects' apartment found a Jordanian passport in Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer's possession and an application for asylum in the United States, claiming he had been arrested in Israel as "being a member of a known terrorist organisation". This was apparently a reference to his detention for 15 days in 1990, allegedly for throwing stones during the intifada.

However, in Hebron relatives and friends of the arrested man claimed he had no religious or political affiliations and had been wrongly accused. The man's brother, Noor, said Gazi had left the town four years ago to find a better life in the United States. "It's impossible my brother would do something like that," he said. "He's a non-violent person and a person who loves peace."

Noor said his brother first went to Canada. After taking a course in English, he moved to the United States and recently told his family he was going to marry his American girlfriend.

"My brother . . . used to say that [Americans] are nice people and lovely hospitable people, and he was going to marry one of them. How he can harm them?"

More than 50 arrested in Israeli hunt for terrorists

From Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

ISRAEL has tightened security in public areas across the country after arresting more than 50 suspected Islamic extremists in connection with the Jerusalem bombings.

Reinforcements of soldiers and police have been sent to the city, where they patrolled the central market, the scene of Wednesday's explosions in which 15 people died, including the two bombers.

The Tel Aviv beachfront, normally crowded with sunbathers at weekends, was also under heavy guard. The Israeli arrests came as Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, stepped up his attacks on the President of the Palestinian Authority, Yassir Arafat. "I believe that peace can move forward only if the Palestinian Authority and Yassir Arafat . . . live up to their obligations [to stop terrorism]," he said. "I think the Palestinian Authority has had a very free ride. Basically the line was what they do is okay, and the obstacle of peace is on this side."

But Mr Arafat's adviser on Israeli affairs, Dr Ahmed Tibi, said Mr Netanyahu's reaction was too severe, considering the assistance that the Palestinian Authority had given in fighting terrorism. He said Israel's imposition of a series of sanctions was tantamount to an attempt to crush the Palestinian leadership and to demanding the surrender of the Palestinian people. Not even the United States could eliminate terrorism, Dr Tibi said, and when Israel had total control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip it could not do so either. "Arafat, too, is not omnipotent, just as Netanyahu isn't," he said.

The Palestinian Authority has made arrests since the bombing, including at least one man believed to be a senior figure in Hamas, the militant Islamic Resistance Movement, reported to be responsible for the blasts. So far the Israelis have restricted their raids to areas under their control, after the Palestinian police chief, Ghazi Jabali, warned them not to take the security sweep too far. He said that, if the crackdown extended into the Palestinian self-rule areas as threatened, "that would mean war".

The Israelis have issued a warrant for Mr Jabali's arrest, claiming he personally helped to organise terrorist attacks against Jews.

In Gaza City, Mr Jabali held a news conference, where he said the action was "laughable". He told reporters that Israeli security forces could not arrest him because this would contravene the peace accords signed with the Palestinians. Mr Jabali declared that, if Israelis entered Gaza to search for him, "they will never get out".

Mr Arafat was also under pressure from his own people to clean up the Palestinian Authority's administration. The Palestinian Legislative Council has given him a month to dissolve his Cabinet.

Palestinian lawmakers said the 88-member council voted 56-1 to urge Mr Arafat to appoint a new Cabinet with "qualified and experienced members by September".

It has recommended that at least two ministers, the Minister of Planning, Nabil Shaath, and the Minister of Civil Affairs, Jamil Tarifi, stand trial for corruption and misuse of public funds. Both men have threatened lawsuits over the allegations.

The council committee launched an inquiry after an official auditor's report found that members of the Palestinian Authority had squandered $326 million (£203 million) in public funds last year.

> ‘Arafat is not omnipotent: neither is Netanyahu. Not even the United States can eliminate terrorism’

AP

An Israeli soldier blindfolds one of the Palestinians arrested in the West Bank

Albright to take new role in peace process

From Ian Brodie in Washington

THE US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, is expected to jettison her low-profile approach to Middle East peace and make a quick trip to the region.

The plan emerged yesterday after a top-level strategy session at the White House in response to Wednesday's suicide bombings in Jerusalem. She ruled out a visit next week, deciding Israel needed time to mourn.

In his State of the Union address 18 months ago, Mr Clinton bragged about his Administration's successes as a mediator in the Middle East, calling the United States "the world's very best peacemaker".

But since last spring, when peace talks collapsed, the Administration has allowed a vacuum to develop by withdrawing from its earlier stance of speaking out on the issue and badgering both sides to continue negotiating.

Washington officials claim to have been working quietly out of the spotlight, but if so they have little to show for it. Critics suspect the Israelis and Palestinians have been left too much to their own devices.

The advent of the hardline Likud coalition under Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has certainly complicated Washington's role. Peace negotiations ran smoother under the Labour governments of the late Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

White House officials have been saying since the bombings that third countries can only help so much.

"We cannot do for the parties what they must do for themselves, which is reconcile their differences," said Michael McCurry, the White House press secretary. For all that, the Americans seem ready to try again.

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Bonus Account* (Including Bonus)	£500+	3.60	2.88	–	–
	£5,000+	4.05	3.24	–	–
	£10,000+	4.40	3.52	–	–
	£25,000+	4.60	3.68	–	–
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	£50,000+	4.60	3.68	4.40	3.52
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	£25,000+	4.35	3.48	–	–
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	£100+	0.50	0.40	–	–
	£500+	1.15	0.92	–	–
	£2,500+	1.75	1.40	–	–
	£10,000+	2.25	1.80	–	–
	£25,000+	2.75	2.20	–	–
Special Interest Bond - Issue 2	£500+	5.85	4.68	–	–
	£5,000+	6.55	5.24	–	–
	£10,000+	6.75	5.40	–	–
Special Interest Bond - Issue 1	£500+	5.80	4.64	–	–
Privilege Bond	£5,000+	5.85	4.68	5.65	4.52
	£25,000+	6.35	5.08	6.15	4.92
	£50,000+	6.45	5.16	6.25	5.00
	£100,000+	6.55	5.24	6.35	5.08
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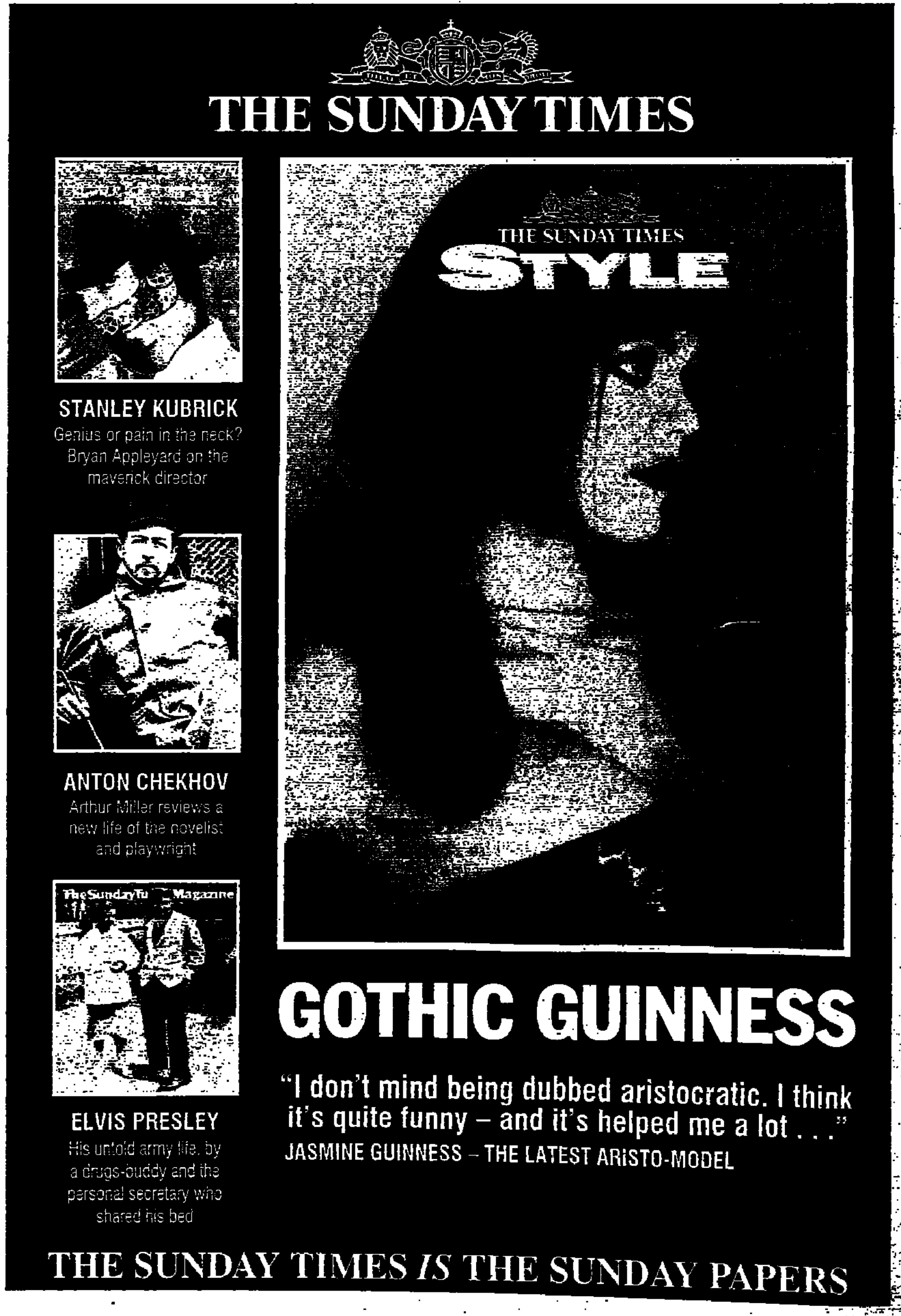

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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هكذا من الأصل

Choice of envoy sparks Mexican stand-off

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON has never seen a fight quite like it. On one side is William Weld, a moderate Republican who has been nominated by President Clinton as US Ambassador to Mexico. On the other is another Republican, the crusty Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

On the face of it, Republicans should be delighted that one of them has been chosen by a Democratic President to represent the country in a sensitive post. But that reasoning does not take into account the stubborn ways of Mr Helms, who not only objects to Mr Weld but has refused to let his committee even consider the nomination, thus preventing the full Senate from voting on it.

The blue-blooded Mr Weld is not one to take such a snub lightly. This week he resigned as Governor of Massachusetts and set off to teach the capital a thing or two.

By yesterday Mr Helms was still ahead on points. Mr Weld strode the halls of Congress seeking support, but it was sparse. In a jocular tone he told an attendant claque of reporters that his campaign for the Mexican ambassadorship "could be a land war or an air war". This prompted Trent Lott, leader of the Senate Republicans, to observe that diplomats were supposed to stop fights, not start them, adding that the nomination struck him as "flaky".

Mr Helms's stated objection is that Mr Weld is a wimp because he favours medicinal use of marijuana and clean-needle exchanges for drug addicts. In fact, far deeper sociological and ideological fault lines separate the pair, pitting the libertarian Mr Weld against the reactionary Mr Helms.

"I don't think Mr Weld is ambassador quality," said Mr Helms. Mr Weld, who is pro-choice on abortion and favours gay rights, responded: "I'm not Senator Helms's kind of Republican — because I don't pass his litmus test on social policy. Nor do I want to." According to Mr Helms, the only way Mr Weld will get to Mexico is as a tourist.

Helms and Weld: they are locked in a brawl

College teaches no blacks after end of quota

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AS A controversial ban on admissions quotas for ethnic minorities goes into effect for the first time, none of the 196 black applicants for places at a leading Californian medical school has been accepted.

A year after Californians voted to end "affirmative action" policies that lowered university entrance standards for blacks and latinos, the stark result at the University of California's San Diego medical school has left its dean "deeply concerned".

"Opponents of affirmative action may argue that we have lowered the bar for some of these students in the past, but the standards once they're here are no different. We're tough," Dr Robert Resnick said.

The zero acceptance rate for blacks at the San Diego faculty this year follows seven acceptances last year and 11 in 1996, with enrolment of blacks and latinos also sharply down at other University of California campuses in Orange County and in San Francisco.

Defenders of affirmative action have expressed alarm over what they claim are shrinking educational opportunities for ethnic minorities, and over the prospect of too few doctors in California's inner-city blackspots, such as South-Central Los Angeles, where whites seldom tread.

"Where in the world are [white] medical students going to learn about the practices, the culture and the beliefs of minority communities to give them the sensitivity they need?" Timothy Ready, of the Association of American Medical Colleges, asked in the *Los Angeles Times*, adding that racial diversity among doctors was vital for proper healthcare.

It is precisely such rhetoric that fuelled last year's successful campaign for Proposition 209, however, which outlawed race-based affirmative action policies in California and has become a model for proposed legislation on Capitol Hill and in other states.

First seen as an attack by "angry white men" on a crowning achievement of the civil rights movement, Proposition 209 swept into the mainstream with a well-funded campaign led by a black businessman, Ward Connerly, who argued that affirmative action made officials focus on skin colour, not merit, and was a case of political correctness gone too far. The collapse in blacks' admissions in San Diego shows "that race clearly has been a huge factor" in past years, a colleague of Mr Connerly said yesterday. "Clearly there's some hard work that needs to be done to get certain groups of kids better prepared."

That work appears already under way. A separate report published this week showed that nationally the high school drop-out rate among black American teenagers has dropped by nearly half to 12 per cent — only slightly above the level for whites — over the past 25 years. For Hispanics the drop-out rate is stuck at a woefully high 30 per cent.

Tibetan monks forced to recant

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

MONKS and nuns in Tibet are being forced by armed officials to denounce the Dalai Lama in a campaign reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution. According to a report issued yesterday by the London-based Tibet Information Network and confirmed by travellers passing through Hong Kong, "political re-education teams", which include armed men, are forcing monks to give "correct" answers to 24 questions supplied by Li Ruihuan, a member of the Supreme Politburo Standing Committee.

These include: "the Dalai Lama is the head of the serpent" of the "separatist organisation conspiring for independence in Tibet"; "the root cause of social instability in Tibet", and "the biggest obstacle to the establishment of normal order in Tibetan Buddhism". Three hundred Tibetan monks and nuns are reported to have fled to Nepal and India.

The campaign is part of a "strike hard" drive aimed at "separatists" in Tibet and in Xinjiang, where Muslims have violently attacked Chinese.

In some monasteries, where the re-education teams have been active for up to three months, monks have protested and in some cases walked out of the sessions. Monks closed one monastery.

A traditional Japanese wife, above, adores her husband and cuts his toenails

Japanese wives take small step out of kitchen

BY JOANNA PITMAN

MILLIONS of husbands across Japan will be casting anxious glances from behind newspapers this morning as their wives cook, serve breakfast and wash up for the household patriarch, then kneel down to cut his toenails and clean out his ears.

They will have been unsettled by a Tokyo court which yesterday ruled in favour of a 33-year-old woman who divorced her husband after he demanded that she should do all the cooking, cleaning and laundry, even though she holds a full-time job.

The husband, 35, a public servant, filed a lawsuit demanding that his wife should pay 4.5 million yen (£23,000) in damages for refusing to live with him soon after their marriage and for ultimately divorcing him. The court turned down the husband's demand for damages, but ordered the wife to return a 1 million yen betrothal gift and her wedding ring.

The ruling is the first of its kind, and should give Japanese wives a few good ideas for improving their lowly lot in life.

Japanese society is still very traditional and the standard assumption, which goes back hundreds of years and is held by both sexes, is that the primary purpose of a woman's life is to take care of her man and rear his sons. The revered scholar Kaibara Ekiken wrote in the 18th century that "a woman must regard her husband as her lord and serve him with all the reverence and all the adoration of which she is capable. The chief duty of the woman, her duty throughout life, is to obey."

Even as late as the 20th *century, the novelist Natsume* Soseki's first words to his prospective bride in an arranged marriage were brief: "I am an intellectual and have no time to trouble myself with you. Do what I say."

Today, Japanese women no longer walk ten paces behind their men, but they still have a lot of catching up to do. Sexual differentiations are encoded in the language. The familiar word for wife means "inside the house". The written ideograph for man depicts "power in the field", and for women, "womb".

From an early age, Japanese women are trained to defer to men, to speak in cute squeaky voices, to cover up their mouths when they laugh, and to cultivate a submissive personality that will give subtle boosts to the male ego.

Women belong at home — that is Japanese orthodoxy. But it is not reality. Since the 1960s, the number of working women has grown to almost one half of the workforce, and half of all married women work. Only a tiny proportion of women, however, hold managerial posts.

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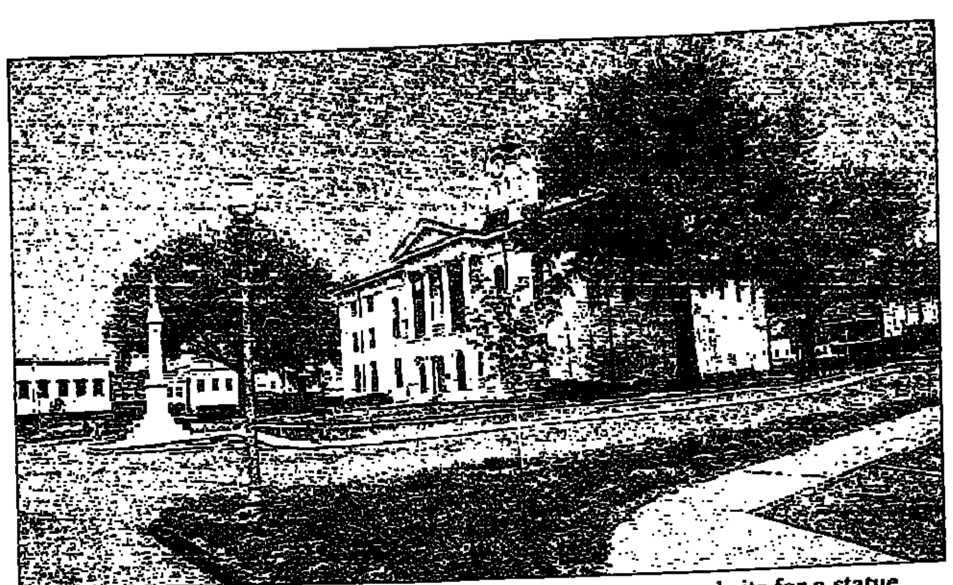
CORBIS-BETTMANN / UPI

Faulkner: a private man who did not encourage public tributes from his home town

The statue and the fury

Centenary tribute for Faulkner leads to angry exchanges between family and former mayor

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI



Oxford's city hall: Faulkner's family is outraged at proposed site for a statue

THE tiny Mississippi town of Oxford hopes to celebrate next month the 100th anniversary of the birth of William Faulkner, its most famous resident, and the man many call the greatest American writer of the 20th century. But a row over his statue, setting the Faulkner family against the former mayor, threatens to scupper the ceremony.

Jimmy Faulkner, 74, nephew of the writer, says the dozen members of the family will not plan an anniversary party until the fate of the statue is decided. If they lose their fight to have it built at Rowan Oak, Faulkner's plantation home, he says: "We'll all stay home."

The row has come as something of an embarrassment to Oxford, given the scale of international interest in the September 25 centenary. France, where Faulkner is probably most adored outside the United States, is planning to unveil a plaque in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris. This week a record number of academics and Faulkner fans, many of whom know his page-long sentences by heart, braved Oxford's 113F (45C) heat for the annual conference in his memory. Faulkner, who died in 1962, did not encourage public tributes from his home town, nor did he receive many. Oxford was ambivalent about his portrait of the decaying South and its hidden violence, racism and incest. So was the University of Mississippi, known as "Ole Miss", which dominates the town, and which has only recently lost its image as a fortress of Southern prejudice.

With Oxford now thriving from 15,000 literary pilgrims a year, its doubts have given way to possessiveness. The former mayor, John Leslie, an Anglophile who has kitted out Oxford's streets with a London double-decker bus and red telephone booth, decided that a fitting memorial was needed. He commissioned a $50,000 statue (£30,000), half funded by the town, to go up in the City Hall in Oxford's picturesque central square, despite the protests of the Faulkner family, who said the writer, an intensely private man, would have been outraged.

Public unease grew when it emerged that Mr Leslie, in partnership with Faulkner's doctor, might retain rights to the statue's reproduction and could sell miniatures at a profit. The row exploded when, without planning permission, City Hall crews chopped down the ancient magnolia by the hall's steps to make way for the statue. Concrete was poured for the plinth late on a Friday afternoon, after city officials had gone home. "It was like a male dog at a fire hydrant — he was just determined to leave his mark," one resident remarked this week.

Mr Leslie, whose 24-year reign as mayor ended three weeks ago, says he is "not aware of the statue being an issue" in the recent elections. But his successor, Patricia Lamar, who says Faulkner "makes us proud", believes the row was "the last little thing" that put her in City Hall.

Mrs Lamar has called on the state attorney-general to pronounce on the ownership and location of the statue. For now, it languishes in a foundry in Memphis. That might be the ending Faulkner would have preferred.

Clinton sex case subpoena angers woman 'victim'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

LAWYERS for Paula Jones, who claims that she was sexually harassed by President Clinton when he was Governor of Arkansas, have subpoenaed a woman who used to work in the White House. But a lawyer for the woman, Kathleen Willey, said yesterday she was "outraged" to have been pulled into the case, feeling her privacy had been violated.

She did not have any information that would be relevant to Mrs Jones's complaint.

Mrs Willey "had, and continues to have, a very good relationship with the President", said the lawyer, Daniel Gecker, who promised to challenge the subpoena. It requires Mrs Willey to appear in Mr Gecker's office on August 14 to answer questions under oath from Mrs Jones's lawyers for a deposition.

American media accounts said Mrs Willey, who worked in two offices at the White House, would be asked about reports that she rebuffed an improper advance by Mr Clinton in 1993.

Last September Mr Clinton appointed Mrs Willey to the board of the United Service Organisation, which provides morale-boosting events for the armed forces. She and her husband, Edward, worked in the 1992 Clinton campaign and were in Little Rock on election night. A year later Mr Willey committed suicide while under investigation for alleged embezzlement of $250,000 (£153,000) from clients.

Lawyers for Mrs Jones said that they were trying to show that Mr Clinton engaged in a pattern of sexually harassing women while he was Governor and also since he became President. Mr Clinton adamantly denies Mrs Jones's claim that he exposed himself to her in a Little Rock hotel room and asked for oral sex.

His lawyer, Robert Bennett, said the subpoena was an effort by Mrs Jones's lawyers to embarrass the President by planting untrue stories in the press. The Supreme Court ruled in May that Mrs Jones's case can proceed while he is in office.

Joseph Cammarata, one of her lawyers, said: "We are now gathering evidence. If he grabbed and groped one, and grabbed and groped another and a third, well it might answer the question about what he did here."

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Vietnam's last emperor dies in exile

Ben Macintyre in Paris looks back on life of a deposed dynastic ruler who swapped politics for pleasure

BAO DAI, the last emperor of Vietnam, has died in Paris at the age of 83, more than four decades after he was deposed to begin a life of permanent and luxurious exile in the south of France.

The thirteenth and last monarch of the Nguyen dynasty spent the first half of his life as monarch of a country his ancestors had ruled for four centuries, and the second half as a millionaire playboy on the French Riviera, earning himself the ironic title of the "Emperor of Cannes".

Bao Dai ruled Vietnam for 20 years until 1945, and then again as head of state between 1949 and 1955 under French colonial control. He played no role in Vietnamese political affairs thereafter, but in French exile he continued to live on a lavish scale.

A passionate gambler, he was most often to be found at the roulette tables in the Palm Beach Casino in Cannes, where he lost several of the millions he had acquired during the Indo-China War due to the artificially maintained exchange rate between the Indo-Chinese currency and the franc.

There was enough left in the 1950s, however, to finance a 20-bedroom château near Cannes, another Riviera mansion, a chalet, an apartment in Paris, a fleet of sports cars, a 500-tonne steam yacht, ten domestic servants and a diplomatic staff that once numbered 25 but gradually shrank along with the deposed emperor's political influence. His private plane, equipped with a bar and bath, was a gift from the French Government.

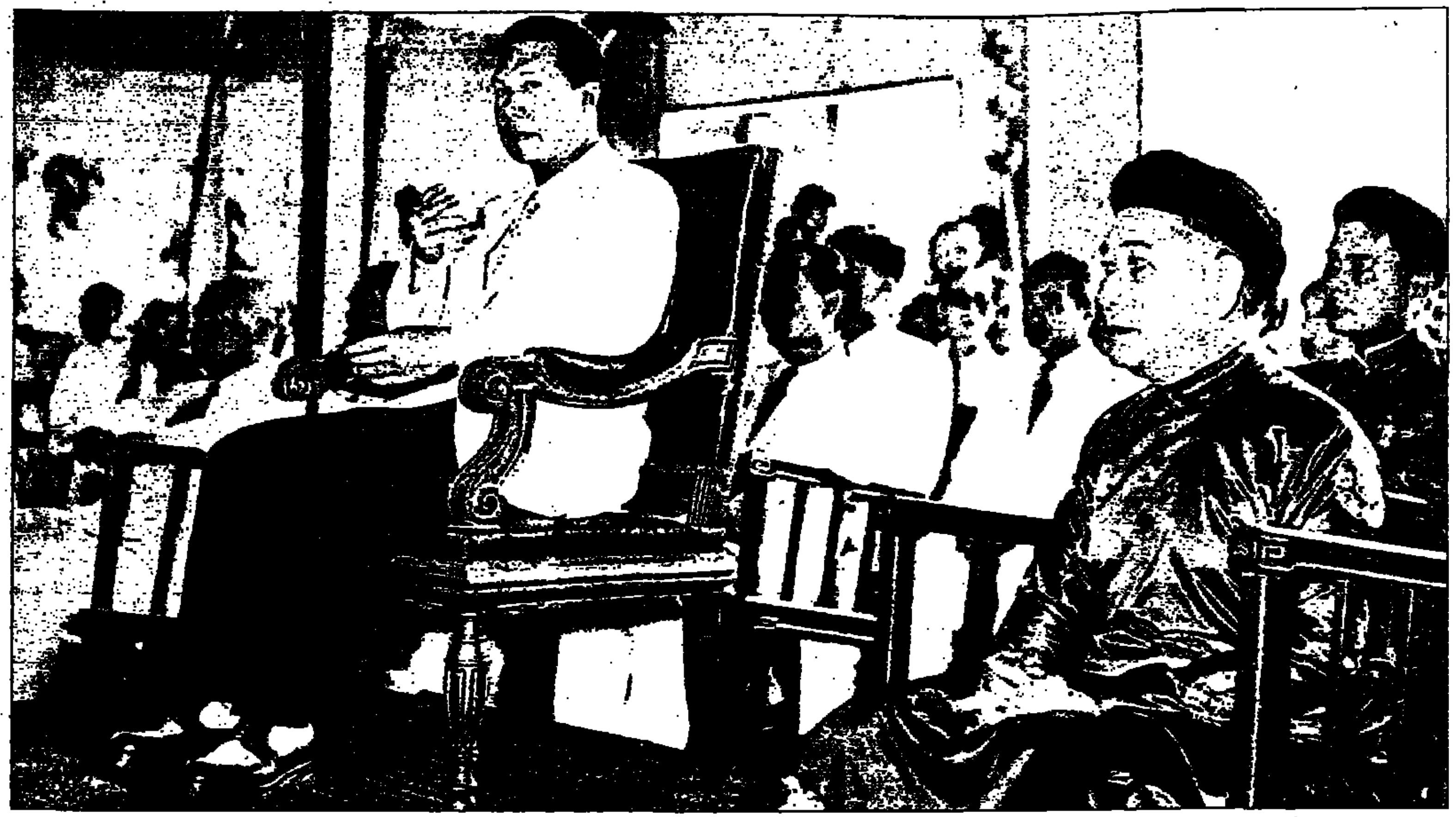
Bao Dai died in a Paris military hospital on Thursday night, Princess Vin Thuy, his widow and French-born second wife, said. A funeral will be held in Paris next Wednesday.

The emperor formally abdicated in 1945 when Ho Chi Minh, attempting to head off the return of French rule after the Japanese wartime occupation, proclaimed the Republic of Vietnam. Bao Dai briefly retained an honorary position as "supreme counsellor" before heading for Hong Kong.

In 1949 he returned to Vietnam and declared the country an anti-communist state under French rule, with himself as head of state.

Six years later, after the withdrawal of the French with Ho Chi Minh's victory at Dien Bien Phu, Bao Dai was finally deposed in a referendum organised by his own Prime Minister, American-backed General Ngo Dinh Diem.

He spent the rest of his life in peaceful and comfortable obscurity in the vast Château de Thorenc, near Cannes.



The Emperor Bao Dai in Hanoi. He lived in France after 1955, and as a millionaire playboy was dubbed the "Emperor of Cannes"

Born Nguyen Vinh Thuy, he took the imperial title Bao Dai, which means "Voice of Authority". The rotund and jovial former emperor, however, dedicated his life less to upholding his authority than the pursuit of pleasure, including gambling, clay-pigeon shooting and racing motorcycles.

Bao Dai was born in Hué in October 1913, but raised and educated in France from the age of nine. He formally acceded to the throne at the age of 13, following the death of his father, the Emperor Khai-Dinh, but did not take up the reins of government until he completed his French education six years later.

On returning to Vietnam, he declared: "I have decided to use all my power to make this country evolve and to promote the path of progress and civilisation." In 1955, soon after being ousted, he said: "I want to go back with a plan of action" — but no such plan emerged.

French in manners, culture and tastes, during his exile Bao Dai converted from Buddhism to Roman Catholicism, but long after moving to France he still cherished impossible hopes of an imperial restoration. "The people still need a unifying force and a spiritual head to maintain the mystical spirit that moves them," he once said.

WORLD SUMMARY

Jobless in France at new peak

Paris: Unemployment in France jumped for the second consecutive month in June to reach a postwar record of 12.6 per cent (Ben Macintyre writes).

The number of jobless rose by 17,400 to 3.13 million, according to official statistics, putting fresh pressure on the Socialist Government to honour job-creation promises made during the election.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, has said that unemployment is unlikely to begin falling until late next year, but trade unions have criticised the Government for acting too slowly.

Crew rescued

Perth: Twenty-one crew members on a stricken bulk ore carrier in the Indian Ocean were rescued by *British Skill*, a British tanker, and taken to the nearby Cocos Islands, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said. The crew abandoned the Panamian-registered *Goodwill* after it hit a reef and spent most of the night in a lifeboat. "Rescuers had to work in winds of 20 to 25 knots and seas of 10ft," David Gray, a safety authority spokesman, said. *(AFP)*

Adoption inquiry

Bucharest: A wide-ranging investigation has opened into how more than 12,000 Romanian children were illegally sent overseas for adoption in the past seven years. Nicolae Cochinescu, state prosecutor, said only 5,132 of the 17,717 children adopted abroad between August 1, 1990, and June 30, 1997, received the green light from the Romanian Adoption Committee as required by law. *(AFP)*

Duck take-away

Hong Kong: Hong Kong children took gifts of live chickens and ducks to the People's Liberation Army barracks here to celebrate the army's 70th anniversary, but were politely turned away. An officer at the barracks told the group: "We are very touched by the gesture, but we have our rules and we cannot accept your gifts." *(Reuter)*

Skiers return to disaster resort as search goes on

BY RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SKIERS yesterday returned to the slopes of Thredbo as hopes faded of finding any survivors from the avalanche believed to have killed 20 people in the Australian resort.

Four bodies have been located by emergency workers, but only one — that of a man — has been recovered. The risk of another disaster is being made worse by a rock the size of a lorry that is resting on a tree and overhanging the site.

Fumes from a ruptured 3,000-litre tank of diesel also threatened to overcome workers who are using thermal imaging cameras to search for survivors. The chances of finding anyone alive were "infinitesimally small", said Superintendent Charlie Sanderson, the area police commander.

More skiers returned to the slopes yesterday, but those who made it on to the snow found it difficult to concentrate when they were confronted by the gash left by the landslide as they skied down the slope.

"I tried to ski this morning, but I just lost it at about midday," one woman from Canberra said as she stared at the rubble. "I was just going all over the place."

Dour-looking ski instructors went through their paces with the few beginners who bothered to turn up for ski school, sending their pupils cheerlessly down the slope.

In the background, high on a facing slope, rescuers gingerly picked their way through the dirt, rocks and gum trees and concrete and twisted metal.

Employees of the Thredbo Alpine Resort were encouraged to smile and behave as normal. "Police, counsellors and everyone tell us the best thing to do is just get back to normal as soon as possible. Please, just go to work normally," said a resort memo distributed to staff. But trauma counsellors were available and staff were urged to use them. "Just because you feel OK today doesn't mean you will tomorrow," the memo read.

About 100 people, some of them relatives of the victims, gathered at Thredbo's sunlit chapel to pray for victims.

More than 500 emergency rescue workers continue to work round the clock in freezing temperatures to search for any sign of life. The police later revealed that many of those still missing could be trapped more than 30ft below the surface under a thick concrete slab.

Geologists say the landslide was probably caused by water in the ground, but local authorities have been aware of slippages on the Alpine Way road that snakes through Thredbo for many years. One report said that there had been 24 slippages on the road in 1994 alone.

Richter: interpretations of Bach were renowned

Richter dies at age of 82

Moscow: Svyatoslav Richter, one of the great classical pianists of the 20th century, died yesterday near Moscow. He was 82.

Born in Zhitomir, Ukraine, he was already a leading musical figure in Odessa in the 1930s before moving to Moscow. He was renowned for his Bach interpretations as well as those of Prokofiev and Shostakovich. ***(Reuter)***

Obituary, page 21

Belarus leader cancels visit in feud over TV crew's arrest

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

THE President of Belarus, feuding with Moscow over his country's arrest of a Russian television crew, yesterday cancelled a visit to Russia, but the Kremlin played down talk of a rift.

President Lukashenko called off his visit to Kaliningrad, the Baltic enclave, after its Governor urged him to delay it because of concern over the crew's arrest. Vasili Dolgolev, the Belarus President's spokesman, accused Kremlin liberals opposed to closer integration between the two former Soviet states of being behind the move. But Sergei Yastrzhembsky, a Kremlin spokesman, insisted that Leonid Gorbenko, Governor of Kaliningrad, had acted unilaterally, without consulting Moscow. "This incident shows how damaging the initiatives of regional leaders can be when not agreed with the federal centre," Tass quoted him as saying.

Mr Yeltsin and Mr Lukashenko have already exchanged harsh words over the arrest of the television crew on July 26, and the Russian leader has threatened to review the union treaty that the two signed in May, if they are not released.

Two members of the crew face up to five years in jail after being charged with illegally crossing the Lithuania-Belarus border. International human rights groups have also called for their release.

But Mr Dolgolev insisted that the law would take its course. "The court will decide [the television crew's] fate," he said. "This is not a matter for Presidents. The border must be inviolable. That is in Russia's interests, too."

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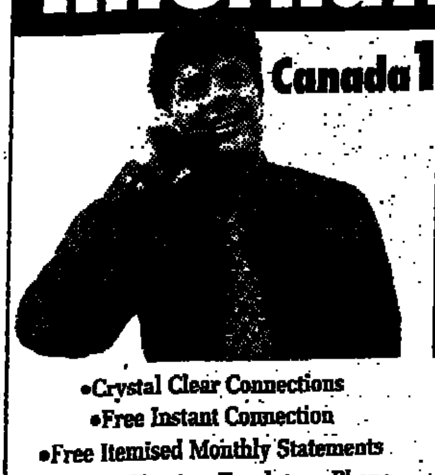

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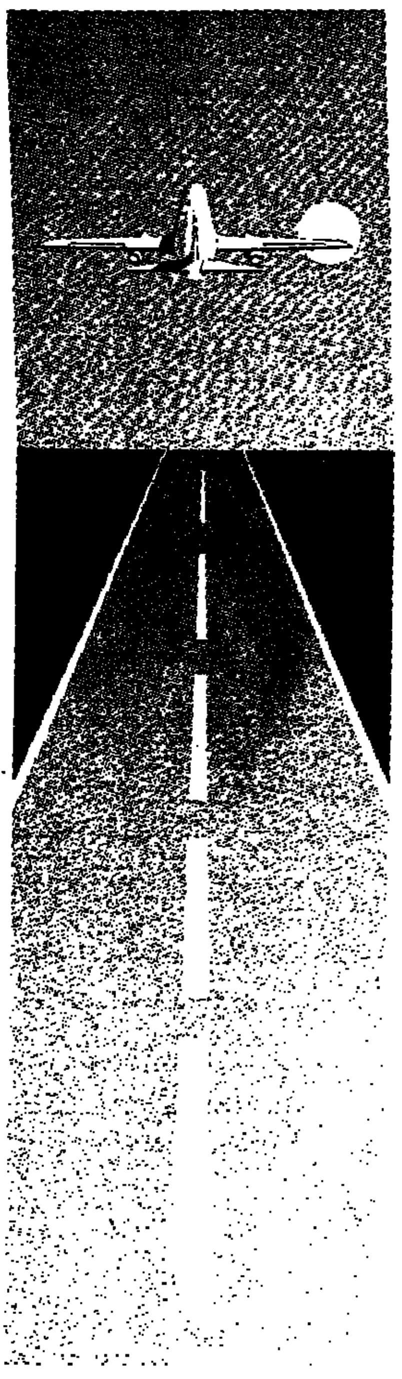

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Mistresses of destiny

HANOVER FILE

by ROGER BOYES

THE bull-necked Social Democrat, Gerhard Schröder, is now firmly established as Helmut Kohl's number one rival. Opinion polls give him a 60 per cent approval rating compared to 30 per cent for the Chancellor. Everything he says — urging a delay for the euro or a crackdown on crime and foreigners who deal in drugs — earns sympathetic nods from the electorate.

The question then is: who or what can trip up the 53-year-old Prime Minister of Lower Saxony on his road to power? The answer in Herr Schröder's case is women. More specifically, his embittered former wife, Hillu, and his lover, Doris. Doris Köpf, a blond magazine journalist, has moved into residence in Hanover along with her cat. Appearances, and discreet opinion sampling, suggest that this arrangement has been broadly accepted, even by women voters.

Although some of the Chancellor's men — notably his top security adviser — have love children and mistresses, they can hide behind the leader's bulk. The Social Democrats are more exposed and the message is clear: to win the election the Social Democrats have to be beyond reproach. That is only one of many lessons learnt from Tony Blair's campaign.

There is trouble then ahead for Herr Schröder, who is now regularly photographed with Doris as he tries to give a normal patina to his living arrangements. There has even been public discussion about the rights and wrongs of keeping the cat out of the bedroom — Gerhard is allergic to cat hair.

All this is enraging Frau Schröder, and the divorce — which was proceeding smoothly — seems to have hit a roadblock.

Yesterday Hillu released a broadside. Her husband, she said, has been cowardly and stands for nothing. He is mean, she says — when she sent vet bills she claims he replied that she should put the dogs to sleep and move to a smaller home. "I keep on thinking that I shouldn't have just dumped his things in the spare room, I should have set them on fire with lawn mower fuel."

But the real power of Frau Schröder is not in the divorce court.

EPA

Gerhard Schröder and wife Hillu on a television show: now she could burst his dreams of power

She is a political woman, and until shortly before the marriage collapsed Gerhard and Hillu were promoting themselves as a Teutonic version of Bill and Hillary.

Hillu's friends are urging her to stand for parliament in Lower Saxony. She would be on a Social Democrat ticket and thus, theoretically, be on the same side as her husband.

The regional elections in Lower Saxony are in March 1998. If Herr Schröder wins there by a clear 2 per cent, he will be set fair to take on Helmut Kohl. If on the other hand his wife runs for parliament at the same time, if the divorce becomes an election issue, Gerhard Schröder might end up looking ridiculous. The Social Democrats have done their British homework and know there is nothing more deadly for a man seeking power.

Slingshots of misfortune

EVERY August the so-called Days of Chaos are staged in Hanover. This is the Ascot of the anarchist community, a fixed part of the season. Punks, skinheads and bikers travel to the city and, over a fraught August weekend, wage street warfare with each other. They fire slingshots, hurl petrol bombs and then, as if following an inner clock, stop the chaos, pack their rucksacks and go home. This year the Days have been outlawed in advance. The hooligans are unlikely to take any notice, but if Gerhard Glogowski, the Social Democrat Interior Minister, messes up the Chaos Days, his political ambitions are likely to be firebombed, too.

Dynastic union on ski slopes

OUTSIDE Hanover railway station, surrounded by the usual heroin addicts, there is a statue of Ernst August, the former King of Hanover and a reminder of the long association between the city and the British Royal Family — all those strange Georges.

Now another Ernst August is making tongues wag. The young (married) prince has been spotted with Princess Caroline of Monaco not once, but 20 times, this year. They have been seen at play on Swiss and Canadian ski slopes, in L'Escargot in Kensington, in Paris and latterly on a Mediterranean yacht.

This has prompted pseudo-scientific inquiry from the press. "How far can friendship go with a married man?" asked one headline this week. But in Hanover they like the idea of the possible union of two little dynasties, the House of Hanover and the House of Grimaldi. "This is the kind of European union we like to read about," says a young official.

Volcano stays on the boil

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

A MONTH after a volcano erupted on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, killing at least ten people, more explosions of super-heated rock and gas have showered the British dependency with ash.

The latest blasts were not as strong as last month's and the authorities said there was no immediate threat of another major eruption. Many of the island's 11,000 residents have left the 39 sq mile island, while many others are living in refugee shelters.

British officials monitoring the Soufrière Hills volcano said a new dome of rock was steadily forming and added that it was impossible to predict when it might blow again. Britain is considering evacuating the 5,000 or so people remaining on the island. About 1,300 have already gone to Britain.

German fears grow over horse attacks

BY ROGER BOYES

A *SINISTER* assailant, almost certainly mentally disturbed, is spreading fear among north German farmsteads by killing, blinding or castrating horses at night.

More than 400 animals have fallen victim to the attacks. Since the turn of the year, 42 horses have been killed or mutilated but the attacks stretch back to 1993.

"He always strikes at the weekend," said Horst Erxleben, 57, a dentist who breeds horses in the village of Wichmannsburg in Lower Saxony. As the police show bafflement, the breeders have taken over the task of running down the culprit. They have offered a £50,000 reward.

Dr Erxleben's horse was an early victim. "At first when I heard the noise I thought it was a deer. But as we called out into the dark, Winnie, the mare, did not respond. Then we saw her, trying to walk to us on her knees. She bled to death."

Since that evening Dr Erxleben has been trying to co-ordinate the information about the man — he is assumed to be male and deranged. In the past four weeks the attacker has struck in Göttingen, Osterode, Luchow, Stormarn and Dithmarschen. Three horses were stabbed, one was shot and castrated, and another was lured towards the killer with fodder and then suffocated with a plastic bag.

The phenomenon of horse mutilation is not new: the 1973 play *Equus* by Peter Schaffer deals with the subject, while in Britain there has been a spate of similar attacks, mostly in the south of England: in June alone, five animals were mutilated.

The police are unsure whether the same man is responsible. Early attacks were carried out with a home-made, razor-sharp lance. Many horses had their eyes gouged out. Nowadays pistols, sabres, poison or acid are used. In some instances vengeful neighbours or insurance cheats may be responsible.

But the police are largely powerless. Inspector Helmut Montag of the special equine investigation squad says: "The criminal can hear a patrol car coming. All he has to do is take cover behind a bush in the dark."

The maximum sentence for animal torture is two years' imprisonment.

"When they get him," says Dr Erxleben bitterly, "he will almost certainly be given a bit of psychotherapy instead of jail. But he won't get off so easily if a breeder gets him first."

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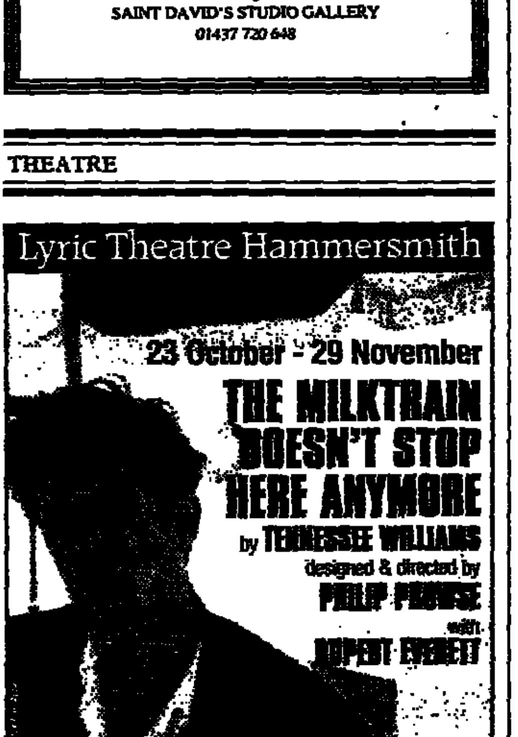

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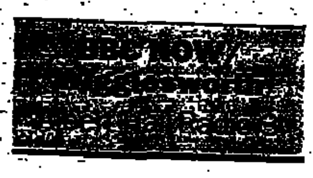
PROMS CONCERTS

This Earth does not move



High expectations were raised by the visit of Mark Wigglesworth and his BBC National Orchestra of Wales to a pair of Proms this week, but not all were met. Perhaps they were unreasonably high: although Wigglesworth has consolidated his position as one of this country's most interesting conductors, he set himself a tough challenge by filling Wednesday and Thursday evenings with a London premiere, a concerto, and three very different Earth-inspired symphonies.

Three, that is, if, like Mahler, you regard *Das Lied von der Erde* as a symphony. In spite of Wigglesworth's Mahlerian credentials, he appeared uncertain of how to shape this symphonic song entity. The earlier songs were beautifully accompanied and full of atmospheric detail, but there was no cohesive link between them, and the long finale was too drawn out even for its evocation of eternity. However, it was worth sitting through for Waltraud Meier's singing, poured out in long lines of shining mezzo tone.

Wigglesworth's soft-edged and autumnal account of Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* was unusual but at least consistent. The measured tempos that made the opening sound so fresh grew wearisome where greater tension was needed, and in the finale they also taxed some of those players expected to sustain unreasonably long phrases.

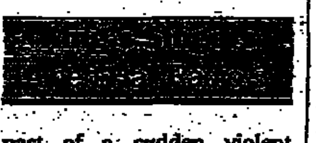
If only he had brought the same relaxed spaciousness to the opening of Sibelius's Symphony the following night. Although the life-and-death struggles of the second movement and the scherzo were shaped impressively, the finale did not make its full, epic impact. The ruggedness was there, but at times it was also ragged: the orchestra lacked not volume but focus.

Nothing got in the way of the music in Bartók's last work, the Piano Concerto No 3. Wigglesworth showed real feeling for its blend of individuality and tradition, and he had a clear-minded, virtuosic soloist in Stephen Hough. The first movement was buoyant and full of lyrical freedom; the second, a look into the unknown by a composer on the brink of death, and the strangely exhilarating finale, completed this worthy tribute to a musical giant featured at this year's Proms.

With his flair for new music, Wigglesworth was very persuasive in David Sawer's *the greatest happiness principle*. It is an arresting score, full of nervous energy. Transparent textures, coloured by winds and percussion, and obsessively repeated rhythmic figures dominate the 15-minute piece, which makes an almost theatrical impact. The title comes from words by the 18th-century philosopher Jeremy Bentham, whose radical ideas on prison design also inspired the rigid structures of the piece. At one symbolic point near the end the form disintegrates into chaos, but throughout the rest Sawer writes for a large orchestra with meticulous care.

JOHN ALLISON

Hard day's night



FOUR centuries of music for vocal ensemble were compressed into an hour and a quarter by the King's Singers, who drew a full and enthusiastic audience for a 10pm Prom. Their smoothly presented repertory, each item given a few words of spoken introduction by one of the six singers, ranged as far back as the 16th-century Lassus and Janequin to start the programme, and demonstrated the all-purpose blandness that limits the group's vocal style.

So graphic a piece as Janequin's *La Guerre*, for instance, cries out for dramatic projection of its vividly descriptive battle scene, where the voices alone evoke the fanfares and other sounds of war, galloping hooves and the like. But these vocal effects were so trimly and even jauntily delivered as to rob them of dramatic character, while the smooth serenity of Lassus, invoking music as the greatest gift, reflected only the group's harmonising skill.

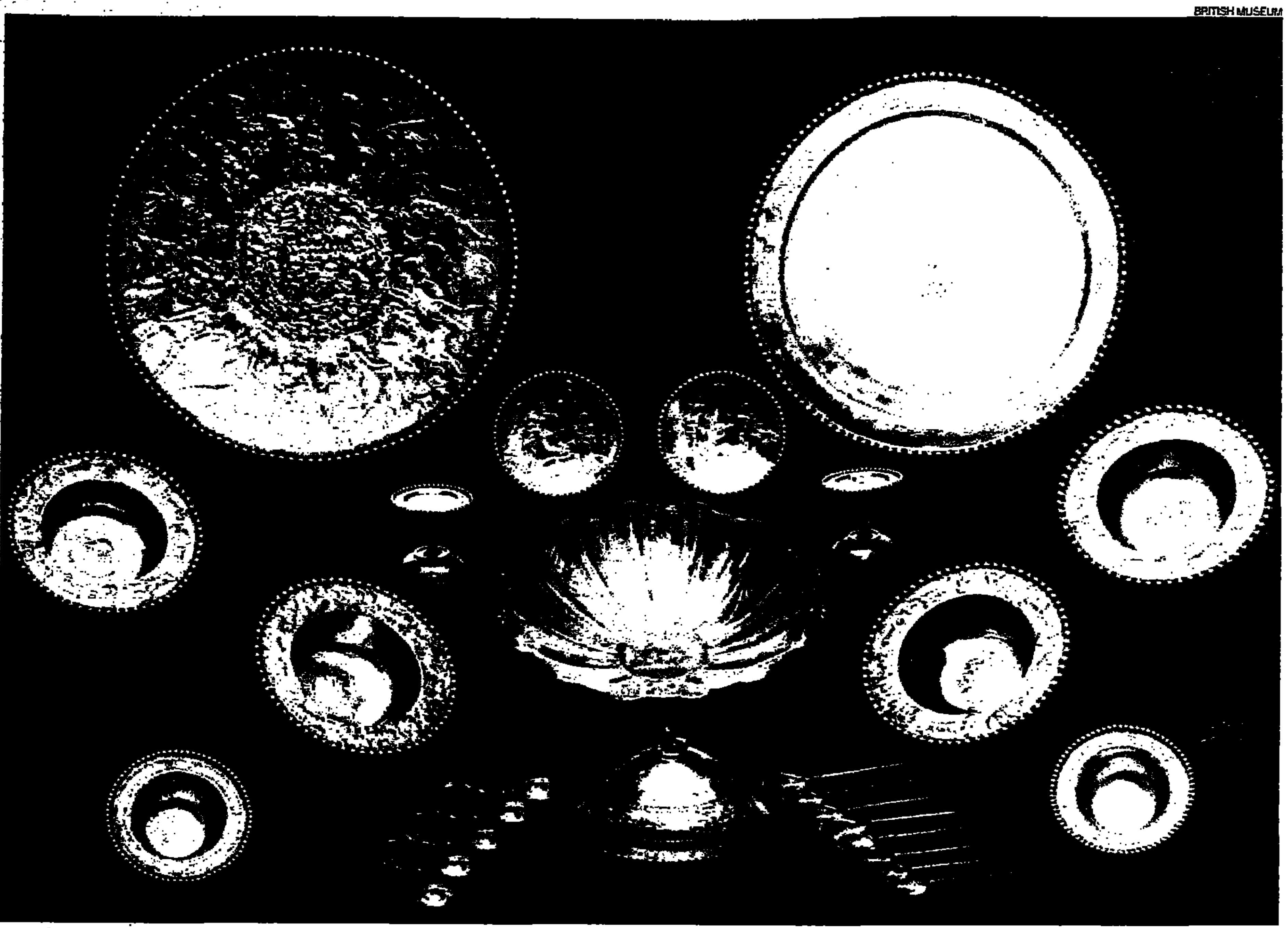
Likewise *House of Winter*, a motet written for them by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. The voices, sometimes precariously pitched, more successfully captured the frozen stillness of an Orkney winter in the poetry of George Mackay Brown than the impact of a sudden violent storm, although its luminous colour was rightly focused in the blend of tone.

They were most engaging in the corresponding blend and rhythmic poise of three English madrigals by Weelkes, Morley and Wilbye, although the lovely *Weep Mine Eyes* by Wilbye sounded more genial than sorrowful. However, the *Nonsense Madrigals* by Ligeti, also written for the group and heard here as a complete set of six for the first time in London, found the singers engagingly alert to the imaginative fun of the settings of Lewis Carroll and others.

After that the singers sadly, in my opinion, compromised their musical integrity by ending with special arrangements of four Lennon and McCartney songs, products of a catchpenny commercial cult sounding merely sentimental and banal in this context which no amount of sophisticated vocal dressing-up could disguise, but which the audience adored.

NOEL GOODWIN

● *Richard Morrison's column returns next week*



BRITISH MUSEUM

One of the finest sets of silverware to survive the centuries since the Roman Empire, the 4th-century Mildenhall Treasure was found in Suffolk during the Second World War

Those civilised old Britons

A breathtaking display of early treasures at the British Museum explodes the myth of our savage ancestors. Alison Beckett reports

The Hollywood myth that Britons were savages before the Roman conquest and became only marginally more sophisticated after it should at last be dispelled by a wealth of decorated armour, jewellery, sculpture, architectural and other treasures on display, many for the first time, in a series of new galleries at the British Museum.

The galleries offer an unprecedented picture of Britain from 1700 BC, the start of the later Bronze Age, to the departure of the Roman army in AD 410. They indicate how the country was transformed by Roman roads and buildings, and how Britons were inundated with material goods. But Celtic and earlier art and traditions are also seen to survive and influence the Romans.

Misconceptions first arose because until archaeological discoveries began to be recorded in the 18th century, historical knowledge of Britain depended on unreliable Greco-Roman authors. Julius Caesar, for example, declared British women uncivilised for having many husbands, while exaggerating his own achievements against supposedly fierce and primitive barbarians to disguise the fact that his raids were an illegal private enterprise.

Pre-Roman Britain, however, was far from uncivilised, to judge from treasures such as the Battersea Shield, with its exquisite swirling decoration embellished with bright enamel, which survived perhaps 2,000 years in the Thames before being dredged up last century.

The abstract pattern is typical of the work of highly accomplished British artist-craftsmen. However, they were derided by their invaders, brought up on figurative design. So the British artists began imitating Classical style, producing souvenir-sized statuettes, for example, of gods and goddesses such as those found at Southbroom in Wiltshire — and their scant regard for realism resulted in naive sculptures with more life than the originals.

Most identifiable villas with pools and elaborate mosaics and murals are now known to have been the homes of wealthy Britons, long accustomed to the import of luxury goods such as wine or precious metals, who rapidly adopted Roman fashions of dress and architecture. But the ornateness of a 4th-century barn at Meonstoke in Hampshire, whose façade can be seen for the first time, has still to be explained.

Many such mysteries, however, may relate to the proliferation of religions which were never fully suppressed by Christianity. The spectacular Hoxne hoard of AD 400, containing gold and silver objects and thousands of coins in mint condition, also never shown before, was owned by a Christian aristocrat, according to the decorative symbols. Yet the representations on a belt buckle and finger rings found at Thetford, dated only about ten years earlier, are pagan, honouring the god Faunus; and the state of ecstasy induced in the worship of Bacchus is illustrated superbly on the priceless collection of silver tableware from Mildenhall.

In northerly parts of Britain the Roman influence on pottery, trinkets and other everyday items is slight. But the Roman occupation seems to have been less turbulent than imagined, as demonstrated by segments of more than 200 writing tablets dating from AD 95 to 115 and found at the fort of Vindolanda near Hadrian's Wall, the oldest historical documents known from Britain.

One is from the commander's wife, inviting a friend from another fort to her birthday party, while others hint at wheeling and dealing in the organisation of supplies. British beer is described as costing twice as much as Egyptian, and at Vindolanda the Romans installed a resident brewer called Atrectus to keep the soldiers happy.

● *The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555)*

Sounding the last post

THEATRE

Last Letters from Stalingrad
Bridewell

WITH his customary care for the *Volk* he had warped and misled, Hitler refused to let the Germans surrender when they were surrounded and almost weaponless at Stalingrad. He also ordered the destruction of all the papers that emerged from that defeat, including the last letters his soldiers had been allowed to write home.

But copies of some of these were kept by a Nazi official and have now been edited by the Clarion Company's artistic supremo, Matthew Mills, into a sort of recitative of doom.

Chattie Salaman, the director, does what she can to make epistolary angst visual and vivid. Old white sacks, bulging with what are presumably letters, lie on the stage. Shreds of paper litter the floor. And out of the debris step men in army greatcoats, their faces swathed in bandages. They are some of the 300,000 Axis troops who were to die at Stalingrad, and these are the missives that were never received by their parents and wives.

The piece lasts some 70 minutes: long enough to get over the overall point, which is that the victims of the battle were mostly not strutting Nazis but men with the same feelings you would probably have found on the Allied side under similarly dire circumstances. One Prussian officer talks of his continuing belief of the "happy resurgence of our homeland" and launches into Wagnerian boasts of the fulfilment he will find in death; but a more typical voice is that of the tank commander who felt obliged to put a hideously burnt Russian soldier out of his misery and can't sleep or stop weeping when he recalls the moment.

A few correspondents dare to be critical of Hitler or, as one puts it, "the man responsible for this". He is the son of a senior officer, and anxious that his surviving family should think hard about the wisdom of the war. One of his comrades berates his own father, a general, for not getting him posted out of the battlefield. The son of a pastor writes that he has looked for God in ratholes and among dead bodies, "but He does not exist in Stalingrad".

We hear from a pianist who has lost his fingers, a would-be put his suffering and death into perspective, and an actor who cannot face the reality of men without eyes or stomachs. We hear from the disillusioned, the angry and the fatalistic, sometimes via the device of requiring women to read the letters they never actually got while they prepare to do the ironing.

The problem, of course, is keeping the evening theatrically alive. Salaman's fine five-person cast does what it can, diving when gunfire starts, hurling about shredded paper like snowballs, even joshing and laughing. But what holds the attention are the words, which can be disconcertingly moving, even heroic. Who wrote home telling his wife to try to forget him and find herself a good, upright man for her own sake and that of his children? Not one of Churchill's boys, but a German victim of the maniac Hitler.

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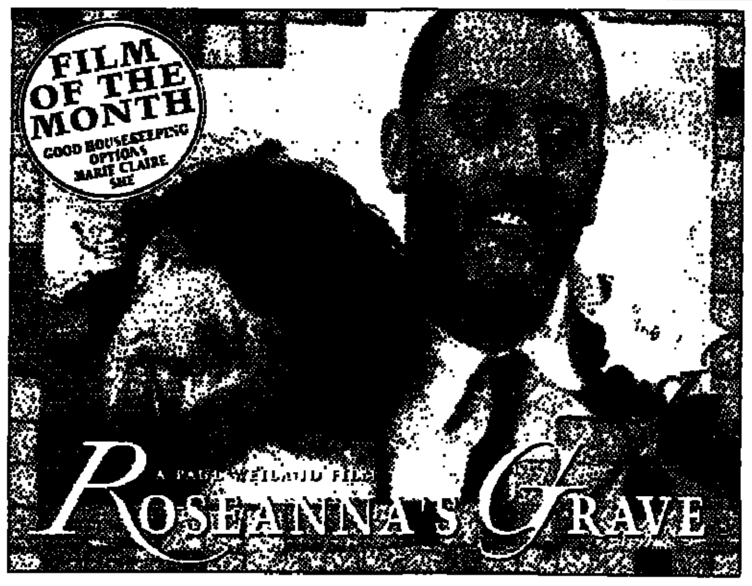

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Philip Howard

Dr Livingstone@jungle.darkest/africa.co.uk, I presume?

The last frontier has moved on. Tucson and Dodge City have become genteel retirement colonies. Hadrian's Wall has become a heritage site and, with a few egregious exceptions, the Scots are no longer revolting. Package tours ferry trippers up the Amazon or across the Sahara in the winsome footprints of *The English Patient*. (Those cowpokes of Hollywood have degenerated into wimpish tenderfeet to vote so many Oscars to that sentimental slop instead of to *Secrets and Lies*.)

The foothills of the Himalayas are now filthy with bin-liners discarded by trippers. It is possible that lost tribes are still waiting to be found in the wilder suburbs of Papua New Guinea or Tooting. But if you really want to go roaming with a hungry heart after new experiences and lost tribes, the last frontier has become Cyberspace. Our New York correspondent reported this week how the lost tribe of Melungeons, driven ever deeper into the Appalachians by five centuries of encroaching civilisation, have started to rediscover their roots on the Internet. Are they one of the Lost Tribes of Israel, or descendants of Dido and her Carthaginians who escaped from Rome across the Atlantic? The characteristic bumps on the back of their heads are evidently Turkish, and the Melungeons are susceptible to Middle Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean diseases. Why do Cherokee Indians wear turbans? Why do Creeks wear fezzes? And why does your average Melungeon look like Saddam Hussein?

These are puzzling questions, but not beyond all conjecture. And the way to find their answers is no longer up the Nile or beyond Shangri-la. It is on screen. Herodotus, father of history, father of lies, was the first European who could afford to travel out of choice and at leisure. And ever since Herodotus, the inquisitive and romantic have gone on grand tours or safari to explore the world in person. But the secret places have now become so familiar from cruises and package tours and television that the last wilderness is on screen.

And virtual travel can be as testing as the real thing. Abandon hope all ye who press ENTER here. Sir John Mandeville, the 14th-century travel writer, claimed to have seen the pyramids and also people with no heads but eyes in their shoulders. The virtual traveller of the 21st century, browsing and surfing through databases measureless to man, can find lost tribes and forgotten ancestors. The *Mappa Mundi* discovered wonders such as the Bonnacon, the ferocious, ox-like creature that deterred its pursuers by artillery defecation at them. The modern digital traveller faces dangers as terrible as the sirocco in information gridlock and web brownouts, when the network slows down because of congestion. Desert tribes used to take to the sandstorm with swords drawn against the killing winds. I just punch the computer. And there are deadlier webs than the tarantula's.

And when the system crashes, the virtual traveller is marooned in solipsistic impotence. Herodotus and subsequent real travellers could improvise with a penknife or a credit card. But when the plug is pulled, the new Cyberwilderness is as desolate as the emptiest quarter of the Sahara. Rubbing two sticks together will do no good. The modern traveller has to cope with geek speak rather than pidgin, exec lingo instead of beads and shells, memo slang and logons rather than native bearers.

Silicon Valley can be as lonely as the Valley of the Kings. Incomputerate nincomputes may complain that the digital hunt for lost tribes is not as adventurous as the old-fashioned method, with cannibals' cooking pots and yellow Jurassic Park eyes glaring out of the undergrowth across millions of years. But the best travel writing has been done from the armchair. The best travel writers, including Herodotus, have used their imaginations more than their feet. Richard West, in his biography of Daniel Defoe published this week, demonstrates that *A Tour Through The Whole Island of Great Britain and Ireland* was largely written in Stoke Newington, and that the famous travel book is a voyage through memory and imagination. Software can never replace greyware, in travel, history, the cinema or life.

To tackle religious tensions we need courtesy and firm compromise, not more legislation, says **Paul Barker**

The law should let sleeping dogmas lie

Religion is a sleeping dogma the British prefer to let doze undisturbed. But every so often it turns round and bites back. This week the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, told a House of Commons select committee that he was examining proposals by the Commission for Racial Equality that "a specific law against incitement to religious hatred should be introduced, and a law against religious discrimination should be given further serious consideration." The commission also said that the law on blasphemy "needs to be abolished or to be extended to protect other religions," and not just Christianity.

It said all this in a report five years ago. John Major's Government ignored it. If you wonder why the subject has re-emerged now, it is worth remembering that the Home Secretary is the MP for Blackburn, where the Muslim vote is very important, and where Salman Rushdie was anathematised locally for publishing *The Satanic Verses*.

We could be talking about a Rottweiler of a reform. It is one thing to say, rightly, that no one should be penalised for their beliefs (as witness Northern Ireland, a province where religion has always been a lethally serious business). It is quite another thing to give any comfort to the so-called (and unrepresentative) Muslim Parliament. Its spokesman was duly quoted as saying that legal change was long overdue. He hoped it would lead to Mr Rushdie standing trial for incitement.

The British, in general, ignore religion. They are as un-churchy a nation as you could find in a month of secularist Sundays. Only about one in three firmly believe in some kind of God. Only six million or so people take part in regular Christian worship: almost three million fewer than in the 1970s. Church doors are often locked, as if the only likely visitors are vandals. The days are long gone when the Church of England was the Tory party at prayer, while Methodism did the same job for Labour.

And yet, Tony Blair makes much of his Christian social ethic. And within the dough of unbelief, there is a new leaven. The concern about the law is only the latest piece of evidence. Old creeds decline: new creeds rise. There are now as many Mormons as Baptists, and more Muslims than Methodists. Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists go busily about their trade. In South London, old chapels blossom again as African pentecostal churches.

Looked at in business terms, the Commission for Racial Equality was shrewd to eye new territory. Race is, arguably, of diminishing significance. A study from the independent Policy Studies Institute found, earlier this year, that "religion [not skin colour] is central to the self-definition of the majority of South Asian people"; and Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are, as a group, by far the largest ethnic minority in Britain. With this in mind, no doubt, officials are quietly testing a possible religious question for the next decennial census. It would be the first time such a question had been put in Great Britain since the mid-19th century, when it was spurred by panic over "invasion" by Irish Catholic immigrants.

The majority remains indifferent; for others, religion matters more and more. But does this mean it should acquire special new protection? Change could produce perverse outcomes.

Take blasphemy. Under the present, moribund law, there has only been one prosecution in the past seventy years. Mary Whitehouse nailed *Gay News* in 1977, for printing a poem that claimed Christ on the Cross felt masochistic love for a Roman soldier. Ever since Milton's fiercely anti-censorship arguments in the *Areopagitica*, the right to publish what you want has been hard fought. This is scarcely the time to turn back. One price of living in a plural society is that everyone has to put up with statements that offend them, without resorting to violence or the law.

Some creeds, and Islam is one, find it hard to adjust to being just one set of beliefs among many. But, as Professor Bikhu Parekh pointed out in the policy institute's study, the wider community in Britain "is rightly entitled to expect that its immigrants, who have chosen to come and settle in its midst, would make every effort to become part of it, and in that sense identify with it." The blasphemy law, though illogical and useless, is best left to fade into a dead cinder. To stir the embers will help no one.

Blasphemy law is concerned with various forms of attack on religion as such. But a law against incitement to religious hatred would be aimed at anyone stirring up anger against people identified purely by their religion. There is, in fact, such a law on the statute book already, but it only applies to Northern Ireland. It has hardly ever been used, let alone successfully. This is not a good precedent for enlarging its geographical scope. As for religious discrimination, a House of Lords ruling permits much of this to be tackled under existing law, as indirect racial discrimination. Need we go further?

It is right, of course, that all opportunities should be equally open to everyone. In religion, as over censorship, this has been a long-fought battle. The Test Acts, discriminating against Catholics, Jews and Nonconformists who sought public office, were eventually abolished. But the obstacles to acquiring university education were not removed till 1871. It is also right that all racial assaults should be vigorously pursued (though here, too, I doubt if a new law will help; does anyone think that, for example, Stephen Lawrence's killers escaped because the law wasn't tough enough?).

But, beyond this, we need a firm but mutually courteous process of compromise. In France, the desire of Muslim girls to wear scarves at school has caused a deep educational crisis. It is seen as an attack on the republican concept of lay schooling. Here, we have cleared that hurdle. R. A. Butler's celebrated 1944 Education Act was, among other things, a successful attempt to bring religious schools (Roman Catholic and Anglican) into the state system. Islamic schools can tread the same path.

New mosques are rising in many cities. But, as the row over a minaret in Oxford shows, minorities need to show tact, perhaps even more than majorities. The 19th-century Jewish immigration was a model example of this. Retrospectively, that attempt to be always more British than the British had its comic side. But it avoided, as it was meant to, any accusation of "dual loyalty".

Judaism is not a proselytising religion. For other creeds, it is important to remember that the natives may not take kindly to missionaries. "Britain," in Bikhu Parekh's words, "already has better anti-discrimination legislation than other European countries." There is a limit to what you can do by law. Behaviour is a slippery beast; hard to trap or to tempt to new haunts. But sometimes, you just have to accept the slowness of things. The law should not rush in. Some things are best left to the angels.

The author is a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Community Studies

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Dumbing down at the Tate

Exhibitions of Mondrian and Kelly may have attracted critical praise, but where is the passion in their abstract art?

Simon Jenkins

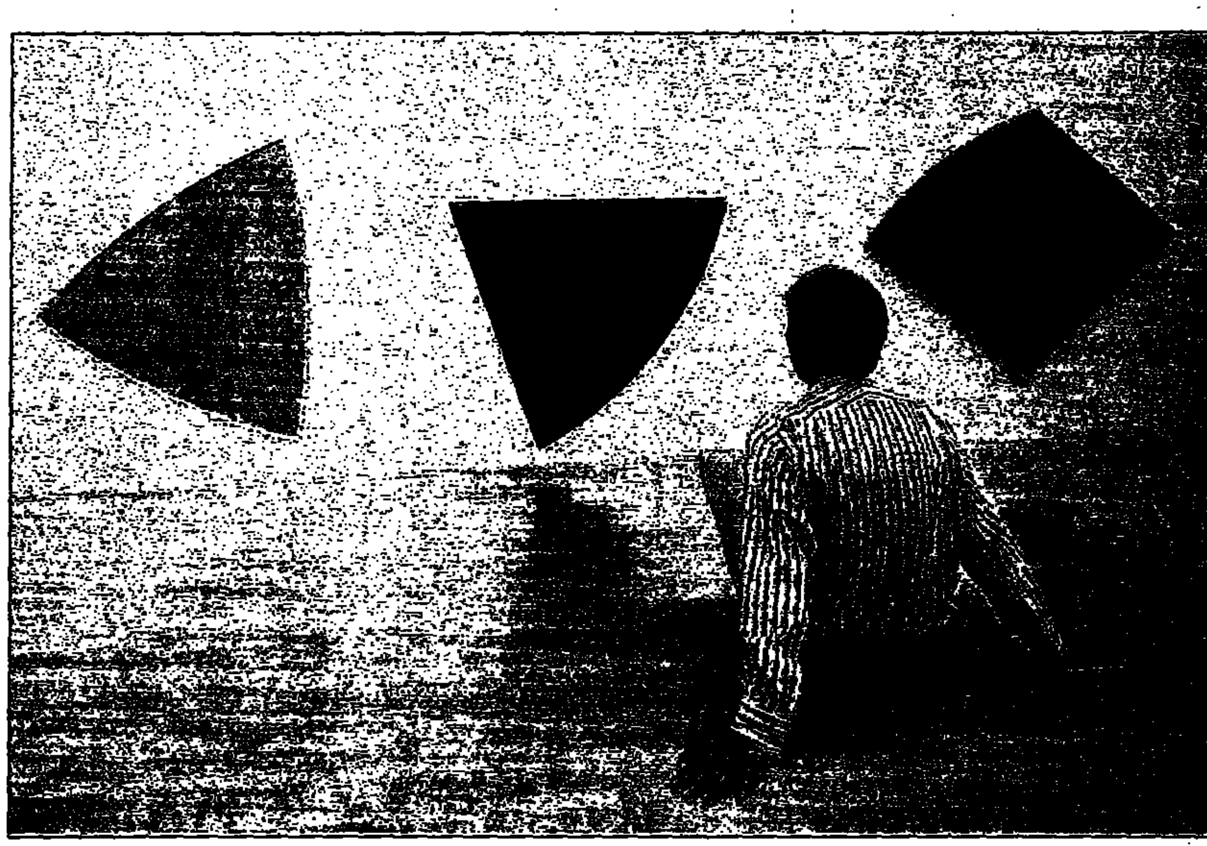
Ten white rooms are filled with large cutout shapes. They are in primary colours, some triangular, some curved, some rhomboid. Most are placed on the walls, some on the floor. One is simply a sheet of "weathering steel". Try as I do, I find it impossible to linger more than 15 minutes in these rooms. Entry costs £5 and the 335-page catalogue is £25. Money is not returned to dissatisfied customers.

The Ellsworth Kelly retrospective in London is the Tate Gallery's summer spectacular, joined this week by a large Mondrian show in adjacent rooms. The critics have treated both to a feast of superlatives. To the *Telegraph*'s Richard Dorment, Kelly's work is a "long and arduous search for pure beauty ... a quest for a higher spiritual or moral truth". To Richard Cork of *The Times*, Kelly is "chaste ... austere ... sensual ... tough ... brooding". Even Brian Sewell of the *Standard*, no softy on modern art, writes of an "intense, luminous, vibrant" voluptuousness.

Once again I set out to do justice to an art that leaves me emotionally cold and intellectually baffled. Honest people, whose views I respect, find these paintings moving. They spend time with them and profess aesthetic, moral, even spiritual uplift. So come on, Jenkins, make an effort. You know what you see, lines, colours and shapes. What is it that others see that so escapes you?

I am an ardent consumer of art. It does not move me to tears, as can music. But I visit galleries of all persuasions and love them. I am prepared to test my sensibility on severed heads, piles of rags and heaps of dung. If I am wary of being conned, it is not for want of taking risks. When I walked out of a concert at the Institute for Contemporary Art, after listening for ten minutes to a single note on a synthesiser, it was only after realising that I was the victim of an Arts Council three-card trick.

So what did I make of the Tate's abstract festspiel? Any national gallery is right to celebrate works of art of historical interest. Mondrian and Kelly clearly have intellectual appeal. But passion? I felt no more than a mild tingle at strident colours in so much white space. They might merit Sewell's voluptuousness. The lines and curves have rhythm. When set alongside rhomboids, they suggest depth and movement. There is also serenity in every shrine. The Cistercians stripped their rooms of content, the better to contemplate the metaphysical. But they were not nihilists. They filled their spaces with ritual. Once one gets used to the colours, Kelly's spaces become boring.



"People find these paintings moving, they spend time with them and profess aesthetic, moral, even spiritual uplift"

Am I therefore too easily bored, unwilling to wait for some psychedelic experience? I turn for guidance to the psalter of this church, the catalogue. It tells me that, no, I am to accept the paintings for what they are. They arise "partly from a rediscovery of the aesthetics of Plato", that "the highest beauty is to be found in geometric forms". Abstractionism is "an idealising and sometimes quasi-mystical desire to free art from the material world to represent the pure, the ordered, the spiritual." Kelly himself asks us to "turn off the mind and look only with eyes" such that "everything becomes abstract". Like Frank Stella, he wants us to see "only what we see". He "does not use colour to define form but to itself become form".

Some of this makes sense, but only just. The Cubists brought abstract shape to the task of artistic representation, and the Impressionists brought abstract colour. (See the superb Seurat show at the National Gallery.) The masters of the Renaissance used geometry as a compositional tool. Conversely, the American scholar Edward Tufte has shown how applying aesthetic standards to graphs and charts enhances their meaning. Rorschach and Mandelbrot applied pictorial principles to psychology and mathematics.

I admit more. Art must shock with novelty. All modern artists, as they grow older, strain to escape the discipline of representing nature, as if bored with life. Kelly wrote how abstraction offered him "a new freedom: there was no longer the need to compose." Offered a big enough cheque, many artists would say amen to that. This is understandable, if not admirable.

All such struggle was to a purpose. What abstraction does is to deny purpose. When Kelly asks us to turn off our minds he is merely leaving the room. To use current jargon, such art is the ultimate "dumbing down". The catalogue protests that, to Kelly, "suggestions of depth, hints of perspective, evocations of atmosphere, all these were faults inherited from painting, errors to be expunged so that art could progress". Kelly's art offers "a personal autonomy engaged with the world but disinclined to capitulate to any of the forces encountered there". I really do not know what this means.

Kelly and his circle certainly lead the lifestyle of artists, not interior decorators. They are dedicated to a vocation which requires great hardship. They even started out in the representational realm. Mondrian's early works are mournful landscapes. Kelly could sketch portraits, though not so as to justify the catalogue's reverence. Yet late Mondrians look like plans for microcircuits or Japanese screens. To the art historian Robert Hughes, he was "one of the supreme artists of the 20th century". But he never explains why. There must be something here beyond neatness and prettiness, and a restless search for a unique selling proposition.

Both Mondrian and Kelly disappear behind the veil of abstraction, as if in retreat from their own talent. I sense two ageing pianists playing to themselves, first one hand, then one finger, then one note. All artists are vulnerable to the terrible critique, "His early work was his best". These have found refuge only in a minimalism that defies such criticism. An artist who needs 80 pages of flowery catalogue prose to explain his work must have something to hide.

The true achievement of abstraction is to be uncriticisable. A bad Kelly is as meaningless as a fake one. Even the hanging of the Kelly show is beyond comment, since Kelly did it. The hanging is the art. The painting is the frame. All comprehension lies in the catalogue. Not a critical word have I read that is adverse, for fear that the whole abstractionist pack of cards might collapse. In consequence, the true artist is the doorman who decides what goes to the gallery and what to the bin. But say that to a modern curator and you are what psychoanalysts call "in denial".

I am sure there is perfection in a curve, in a pure upper-C, in a Dulux colour chart or, for that matter, in a one-sentence *Sun* editorial. These things can be done well, but not very well. Art is the product of words, notes, colours, shapes, but they are tools. I refuse to accord them exalted cultural status just because their users demand it.

Of course I can pack up and admit that Kelly and Mondrian are above me. I can accept that they are members of a religious sect whose hierarchs worship relics, sanctify charlatans and sell indulgences. Their exhibitions are a private Mass from which my lack of faith excludes me. Criticism is not debate but anathema. Sorry, they may say, but you are aesthetically challenged. Please leave the building.

I will not buy this. I thrill to novelty in other arts. New plays, films or novels are hugely stimulating. So is much new art and architecture. In short, I am back where I began. The emperor still has no clothes, the courtiers are still cheering — and I am still left pointing at his privates.

Tories united

DIARY

END of term at Westminster saw the wedding yesterday of Julie Kirkbride, Tory MP for Bromsgrove, and Andrew MacKay, Tory MP for Bracknell. It was an unashamedly political affair. The blessing was held in the crypt chapel beneath the House of Commons and was followed by a reception on the terrace.

William Hague, the Tory leader, spoke for the guests and advised those in need of presents for the couple to head for Randall's of Uxbridge, the store owned by John Randall, the Tory victor in Thursday's by-election. His speech was acclaimed by those present as the funniest they had ever heard from him.

An air of menace was lent to the ushering by three Tory whips who worked with MacKay before their recent election defeats: a burly line-up of Derek Conway, Andrew Mitchell and Roger Knapman.

Kirkbride and MacKay made their getaway in a Bentley lent to them by Greg Knight, the former Tory whip who also lost his seat at the election but has the consolation of a small fleet of classic cars.

He had said the couple could use any one of them. MacKay had wanted a sporty Allard coupé. It took Mrs Knight, however, to make the point that although natty, the Allard was extremely impractical.

When the men folded their arms and refused to believe her, she dug out her wedding dress, which was similar to the one Miss Kirkbride was to wear, put it on, climbed into the car and invited MacKay to squeeze into the extremely tight space beside her. Her point proved, MacKay went for the more spacious Bentley, which had been Miss Kirkbride's choice all along.

"Mr Heston seems to be here already, Your Majesty"

● *Over on Blackfriars Bridge, the word has gone out that* The Express *wants to employ a poet. The plan is to have a sort of poet laureate on call at all times to write a few lines on events of great importance. Anyone interested should submit examples of their work to the Editor, Richard Addis.*

Dunmoling

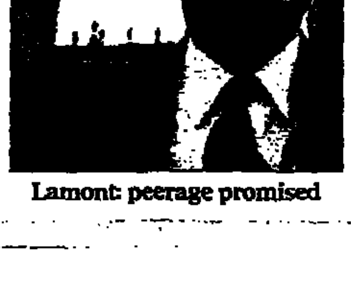
EXHAUSTED by his environmental tunnelling, Swampy, the human mole, has gone to the Devon coast for a summer holiday. "He is fed up with all the press attention," says a colleague at Friends of the Earth in Manchester. "No one knows which bit of beach he's on. Not even his mother."

Should he return to work, adversaries should note his preferred mode of address. "From now on he wants to be called Daniel Hopper," says his spokeswoman. "He is fed up with Swampy."

No Norman

THE absence of Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, from John Major's last honours list will not be of too much concern to the man himself. Lamont, who is without a parliamentary seat or apparent work, is said to have been told by William Hague that he can have a peerage from him whenever he wants.

Hague's loyalty goes back to the days when he served as Chancellor Lamont's parliamentary private secretary, a relationship that established the closest of bonds.



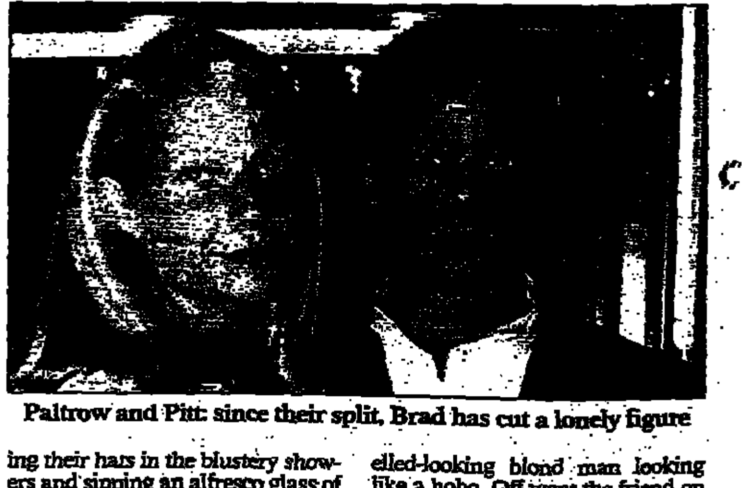
Lamont: peerage promised

● *New Labour's efforts to blend socialism and Thatcherism reaches a nadir in the latest issue of* Good Housekeeping, *in which David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, is interviewed. "We've got to make your readers feel they never again have to buy private education," he says. "They can spend the money on a holiday instead."*

Black day

BEREFT, tearful and all in black, the cast of *Vogue* magazine gathered at the village of Piddinghoe in Sussex yesterday to scatter the ashes of their contributing editor, Lesley Cunliffe. Before her death in March, Cunliffe, 51, left instructions that she should be remembered with a picnic.

More than 100 colleagues and friends obliged yesterday, clutching their hats in the blustery showers and sipping an alfresco glass of champagne before departing by train to London to continue the party in Kensington Square. "It's such a lovely idea," said one of those left behind in *Vogue's* Mayfair offices yesterday. "Lesley always said that dying could be fun."



Paltrow and Pitt: since their split, Brad has cut a lonely figure

Pitt-iful

YESTERDAY morning, an energetic friend set off for a jog around Central Park in New York at 6.30am. There, on a bench near the entrance to the park, was a dishevelled-looking blond man looking like a hobo. Off went the friend on her jog — but something about him nagged at her. He had moved to a more visible slump by the time she passed again, and beside him was a mounting pile of cigarette butts. It was Brad Pitt, movie star.

Pitt, who recently separated from his long-term girlfriend, the actress Gwyneth Paltrow, has been feeling sorry for himself. Red-eyed, grey-skinned and alone in the early morning, the boy needs someone to take him in hand.

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

END-OF-TERM REPORT

A good start, but marks are likely to fall

Tony Blair's first three months in office have confounded almost all expectations. He warned us not to expect a dazzling first 100 days, yet voters are still shading their eyes. Those who worried before the election that he would be too cautious are now surprised at his radicalism. Yet many Conservatives are relieved that he is, after all, no secret socialist. And the cynical who thought that nothing would change whichever party was elected have found that the country actually feels quite different now.

That is not to say that Labour's record so far is one of unmitigated success. There have been ill-judged attempts to intervene where government has no jurisdiction — such as the affair of the Camelot directors' bonuses. The Budget was conceived in haste and had to be amended in haste too. The sagas of Mohammad Sarwar, Robert Wareing and the Doncaster Labour Party show that no party is immune from sleaze. And the failure to sort out Lord Simon's shareholdings is a problem still unresolved.

But the British, for the moment, are in a forgiving mood. If a change is as good as a rest, a new Government after 18 years of the old is a truly refreshing experience. Mr Blair has even succeeded in making politics fashionable. The *glitterati* who trooped through the doors of Downing Street earlier this week would never have turned out in such numbers for John Major. Nor, probably, would he have enjoyed their company.

But, despite a continuing opinion poll lead of 34 points, unprecedented for a governing party, the first small cloud has passed over the sun. Labour might not have banked on winning the Uxbridge by-election from the Tories, but it did not expect the Conservative majority to increase by 3,000 votes. The Tories out-Liberalled the Liberals, running a campaign that focused solely on local issues and made much of the local credentials of their candidate. The result was that the Lib Dem vote shrank by two-thirds, and the non-local Labour candidate failed to make headway.

If the voters of Uxbridge were sending a message to Mr Blair, it was one not of policy but of style. They did not appreciate having a candidate imposed upon them, when they had a perfectly good local man already. Labour's central direction, which helped it to win the election and has so far ensured strong and confident government, threatens also to become its weakness. Voters may soon tire of this overcontrolling administration; and so could ministers and journalists, who resent being treated like naughty schoolchildren. When the backlash comes, which it must do sooner or later, this obsession with control will irritate us most.

So, just as the Prime Minister prepared for Government, he would do well now to start preparing for adversity. If "Things Can Only Get Better" was the theme tune of Labour's campaign, "Things Can Only Get Worse" should be the warning motif of the next two years. Although Mr Blair, Gordon Brown and David Blunkett have already taken radical steps, most of their colleagues have opted for reviews, which are politically costless to initiate. When those reviews report, and decisions have to be taken, enemies will be made to join the existing ranks of field sports enthusiasts and prospective students. No Government remains popular for ever, and the higher the polls soar, the further they have to fall.

Mr Blair has never yet faced unpopularity. Ever since he became leader in July 1994, his party's opinion poll ratings have been unnaturally buoyant. He has still to be tested in difficult circumstances, but the signs are not good. Even now, he looks rattled and peevish when challenged at Prime Minister's Questions. If he wants to ride out the next few years with confidence, he should cultivate the robustness of Margaret Thatcher and avoid at all costs the prickliness of her successor.

BRIDES' LIB

Betrothal would be a retrograde tribal recession down the aisle

At this peak of the wedding season, a theologian wants to reform the British approach to matrimony. In his paper for *The Church Times*, the Rev Beau Stevenson proposes to bring weddings up to date by bringing back the medieval rite of betrothal. In this, couples intending to marry were blessed on the church steps in order to allow them to live together. Betrothal was an ancient form of trial marriage, like the northern "bundling" or jumping over the broomstick.

Then later, if they decided to take the final plunge, they made their irrevocable vows "till death us do part" at the altar. There was no divorce available to anticipate death. Chaucer's Wife of Bath had betrothed five husbands at the church door, not counting other dear companions of her youth. But, prudently, she never made it to the altar.

The origins of betrothal go back to Jewish and Roman wife purchase. The giving of a ring is an earnest of good faith. And in medieval societies, where marriages were arranged and predicated on children, betrothal was the first step. Witnesses guaranteed the troth. And echoes of this two-step wedding march survive. In the Church of England' solemnisation of matrimony, the couple still plight their troths.

But in modern societies, where couples choose their own partners and premarital sexual relations are condoned (or encouraged), betrothal is a relic. Dr Stevenson may think he is trying to bring church ritual into line with modern relationships, and the world of contraception and divorce. A morning wedding has become fashionable. Then, if the marriage does not work out, at least the whole day has not been wasted. Last week official statistics indicated that four out of ten couples who choose the virginal symbolism of a white wedding are already living together. Nearly as many brides arrive pregnant at the altar today as were gratified to do so in the Middle Ages.

And there is humbug as well as charm to modern marriage à la mode. The contest between sides of the church to see which female supporters are wearing the bigger hats is a vestige of rivalry between kinship groups. The tradition that the father of the bride pays for the wedding is another survival from ancient wife purchase. Sensible modern families share the cost. And bridesmaids and ushers today are treading in the footsteps of ancient tribal supporters. But at least the Stone Age custom of putting the presents on display as trophies is fading.

For marriage is still a tribal ritual, even at the end of the 20th century. Not all its traditions are quaint or obsolete. The practice of breaking a wine glass at the end of the Jewish wedding ceremony is a symbol that all is not necessarily going to be sweetness and light, and that marriage can be for the worse as well as the better. That is a piece of timeless tribal wisdom. But most couples now take the decision of when to climb into bed together. They usually have done so, even in medieval and Victorian society. And Church and State can only recognise, license and bless a marriage between two individuals.

"Betrothed" is a more elegant designation than "significant other half". But relationships in a modern democracy are better left to the individuals who are to be related. The Church of England could revive some other traditions in liturgy, texts and holiness. But reversion to betrothal and bride price would be a step backwards down the aisle.

CROOKED BAT

Flay up! flay up! and flay the game!

Cricket is a game full of words more curious than those found in other, lesser sports. Words — like duck, gully, googly, forward short leg, Chinese cut or Harrow drive, grubber, beamer, silly point and extra cover — that would appear to belong only in a thesaurus of silly words.

The most curious word of all, however, is not from cricket's manuals of play. It is "sledging", a modern euphemism used to describe activities that range from verbal abuse to the ruder gestures made with calloused index fingers. As with the game of cricket itself, the Australians are better at sledging than we are. Their men are pithier, their flavour more piquant, their fuses shorter, and their vocabulary richer. Why, even their beers are called "XXXX".

But we are, it seems, getting more adept at sledging than we used to be, with our schoolboy cricketers in particular showing great promise. The sages who run our schools, however, are deeply alarmed by this, and are planning a purge of "unsporting conduct" on the cricket field. They are preparing to address the subject at the Headmasters' Conference, and have blamed the outbreak of vituperation on England's playing fields squarely on contact with abusive Australian schoolboys. And on South African schoolboys too, some of whom are said to be evil little thugs who "frequently overstep the mark".

This degeneration, it is said, is all the result of a chain of contagion. The senior Aussie players are brutes. The Aussie juniors emulate their seniors, becoming brutes themselves. They then play English juniors (who have no senior brutes to emulate), infecting them with the virus. Cut to spitting, swearing little Johnny from Tonbridge. Cut back to schoolmaster, tut-tutting in the pavilion. Bemoan the state of cricket.

Bemoan, therefore, the state of our civilisation, for the link has been made for as long as the blessed game has been played. It was made, somewhat overheatedly, by Sir Henry John Newbolt, whose response to a schoolboy game today would be an anguished gasp, not a "breathless hush". It was made, most elegantly of all, by C. L. R. James, whose *Beyond a Boundary* held that all men are naked oafs unless clothed in cricket's fabric. It has been made frequently, too, in the leader columns of this newspaper, which has lamented the decline in standards for as long as standards have declined — forever, in other words.

But if we can lament, we can laud too. The headmasters are right to act. The line between legitimate aggression and abuse is often a fine one. But it does exist, in cricket as much as in the stock market, or in the rush for seats on trains. Our cricketers have often lost, but they have tended to know where that line is drawn. If our youngsters are bad at social geometry, let them be taught afresh. Lose the match if you must, but never lose your cool, your shirt, or your rag. That is the way of the "fair dinkum" Englishman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN **Telephone 0171-782 5000**

'Pursuit' of Lord Simon on conflict of interest question

From Lord Poole

Sir, Whilst politicians may be having fun in their Westminster cockpit harrowing him, we should regret the pursuit of Lord Simon of Highbury (leading article, "Whatever Simon says", August 1).

As I learnt myself when I was seconded to the No 10 Policy Unit in 1992, in an age of professional politicians (most of whom know all to little about the real world) we badly need as many outsiders as possible to bring their experience to bear on government. There is almost always a career cost in making such a move. There is often a financial one as well. Most do it because they believe that it is clearly in the nation's interest. Let us not make it a virtual impossibility by setting entirely unreasonable demands, such as those being directed at Lord Simon. The safeguards and transparency are more than adequate.

We will all come to regret it if outsiders cease to be brought in. If anything, we should be doing all we can to foster the movement in both directions — outward as well as inward. The Conservatives know this perfectly well from their own experience and will no doubt again wish to bring in outsiders themselves when they return to power. They should shut up and let Lord Simon get on with his job.

Yours faithfully,
POOLE,
53 The Chase, SW4.
August 1.

From Mr Ian Martin

Sir, Lord Simon's defence of continuing to hold his BP shareholdings once appointed as a Minister of the Crown ("Don't scare tycoons away from politics", August 1) demonstrates a startling naivety about both politics and what actually constitutes a conflict of interest.

"I am a businessman, not a politican ... I made it clear that I did not intend to enter the world of party politics," he states. If Lord Simon wishes to stay out of politics he should not have accepted a position in the Government. It is not for him to declare that he is outside party politics. He is a Labour Minister, in Government. He is therefore accountable for his conduct and the impression he creates. If he does not like this then he should resign.

He also states that he has removed himself from any conflict of interest as regards his role as a Minister and in his BP shareholding. However, in passing he says that European gas liberalisation "does not specifically relate to BP". BP is a major player in the European gas industry. Any moves on deregulation of that industry would significantly affect BP. Lord Simon's definition of conflict of interest appears not to cover such circumstances. In which case his words give no confidence that he would recognise a conflict of interest if and when one arose.

I believe that he should divest himself completely of any such shares in BP or resign as a Minister.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MARTIN (Conservative
candidate, Croydon North, 1997),
352 Shakespeare Tower,
Barbican, EC2.

From Mr R. G. J. Winchester

Sir, Actually, I am surprised that Lord Simon only holds £2 million-worth of shares in BP. Given his contribution to that company and BP's contribution to the UK economy, this level of shareholding is remarkably modest.

In an old-fashioned pre-Conservative Government era this would smack of someone taking pride in what he is achieving and content to take only a moderate level of reward for his efforts.

Thus, I think we can be content that Lord Simon's integrity is already well proven and that young William Hague's protestations are simply a reflection of what his generation have come to expect of politicians and, regretfully, some industry leaders.

Let us hope that the cynicism and distrust that dominated Mr Hague's formative years and which now obviously affect his outlook on life will soon be displaced with a set of more positive views.

Yours sincerely,
R. WINCHESTER,
The Old Schoolhouse,
Old Rayne, Aberdeenshire.
August 1.

From Mr Richard Heller

Sir, Lord Simon's article today does not make clear whether he complied with his obligation to consult the Prime Minister over the proposed arrangements for his private shareholdings.

This obligation is expressed quite clearly in paragraph 103 of *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*, in the version in force when Lord Simon took office:

> Where there is a doubt [sc over a private interest] it will almost always be better to relinquish or dispose of the interest but in such cases the Prime Minister must be the final judge, and Ministers should submit any such case to him for his decision.

"It was decided," writes Lord Simon, in the passive, "that I should keep my BP shares until the situation is reviewed next January ... " Decided by whom? Was the decision submitted to the Prime Minister for judgment, and if so, when, and did he endorse it?

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD HELLER,
Oval Publishing,
30 Crewdson Road, SW9.
August 1.

From the Reverend Arundel Barker

Sir, The coincidence in today's *Times* of the article by Lord Simon and the report of the latest ministerial rules issued by the Government suggests the question, "Whom do I blame (or praise?) for what Lord Simon has written?" Is it Lord Simon, or Peter Mandelson, or the Prime Minister?

But I suppose it is the same question Modernist theologians have always faced when they claim to have uncovered a "doubtful" passage in, say, the prophecy of Jeremiah. "Do I blame Jeremiah, or his secretary Baruch, or God?".

But is it not unwise for Tony Blair to encourage us to ask ourselves such a question — doubtless, time after time, after time?

Yours faithfully,
ARUNDEL BARKER,
7 Bull Farm Mews,
Bull Lane,
Matlock, Derbyshire.
August 1.

Pensions and fairness

From Mr W. M. Williamson

Sir, During the pension debate little has been heard of "inflation", but Mr R. F. Jones (letter, July 28) rightly highlights this.

Government cannot afford the cost of modest, basic state pensions and now wishes to put this burden onto individuals. Fair enough, but the cost of an inflation-proofed pension is way beyond the pocket of most of us, yet Government is still offering such pensions to hundreds of thousands of their civil servants.

Surely this is unfair and needs to be corrected. Why should the wealth-creating section of the community pay for the pensions of others which they cannot afford for themselves.

Yours etc,
W. M. WILLIAMSON
(Proprietor),
Portsdown Engineering,
227b West Street,
Fareham, Hampshire.
July 28.

From Mr David Howitt

Sir, The Government claims to wish to encourage all citizens to make provision for their old age. Yet the reduction in the advance corporation tax (ACT) credit, by reducing the value of personal pensions and company schemes based on money purchase, discriminates in the opposite direction.

Members of company final-salary schemes should not be affected, although their discretionary pension increases may be reduced. However, their employers will in due course have to contribute more to their company schemes once any current surplus is used up.

The real winners are civil servants and others in the state-funded pension schemes, whose pensions will be entirely unchanged.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOWITT,
Elveden,
1 Littleworth Avenue, Esher, Surrey.
July 22.

Raj preserved

From Mrs Audrey Hannan

Sir, Mr Anthony Peers (letter, July 30) writes of British Council and DTI collaboration with the University of Mumbai to restore its Gothic Revival buildings.

On a recent visit to Calcutta I was gratified to find that the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia continues to care wonderfully for the South Park Street Cemetery grave of my great-great-grandfather, a prominent 19th-century doctor.

My tiny pang of guilt that the money had not been spent on the homeless millions of the city was somewhat dispelled when I saw a family obviously living in one of the larger, grander tombs.

Yours faithfully,
AUDREY HANNAN,
116 Northampton Road,
Brixworth, Northamptonshire,
July 30.

Drinking and dining

From Mr Osman Streater

Sir, John Lloyd began his interesting inquiry into clubland (articles, July 28-30) by stating that these "sodalities", these "most English of institutions were, not unusually, invented by foreigners". He cites the Italian founder of White's 300 years ago.

The true inventors, whilst indeed foreigners, lived rather earlier. It is all there in Cicero's *de Senectute*, written in 44 BC:

> Our fathers did well in calling the reclining of friends at feasts a "convivium", because it imples a communion of life, which is a better designation than that of the Greeks, who call it sometimes a "drinking together" and sometimes an "eating together", thereby apparently exalting what is of least value in these associations above that which gives them their greatest charm.

The two key words used by Cicero are *sodalitas* and *convivium*, which come together in the official motto of this club. The unofficial motto, "Hang your halo in the hall", would by the sound of it not go down too well in the deal-making new clubs Mr Lloyd describes, where titles and job descriptions are everything.

Yours faithfully,
OSMAN STREATER,
Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W1.
July 30.

From Mr Peter King

Sir, The reason why Grillion's Club meets at Brown's Hotel, as Mr Lloyd mentions (July 29), is that Brown's is on the site in Albemarle Street of an earlier hotel founded by Alexander Grillion at the beginning of the 19th century.

Originally known as Grillion's, its purpose was to provide a neutral ground for Whigs and Tories at which they could dine together without the acrimony characterised in their parliamentary encounters. It was commonly said that "the English Constitution is a democracy tempered by Grillion's."

Grillion himself was formerly *chef de cuisine* to John Crewe, a Whig MP raised to the peerage in 1806. His hotel was much respected, but had to come to an end when the lease in Albemarle Street expired. It continued at other premises however and other Grillions moved to Grosvenor Square to occupy a hotel there called the Coburg. This eventually became the Connaught, which this year celebrates its centenary.

Yours sincerely,
PETER KING
(Author, *The Connaught Story*, 1997),
Nicholas Corner,
Sibford Gower,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.
July 31.

Faceless 'fat cats'

From Mr Nigel Dewar Gibb

Sir, Mr George Racz (letter, July 26) defends the so-called "fat cats" by suggesting they "create lasting monuments for the benefit of the country". But those wealthy business people such as Branson, Tate, Carnegie, Gulbenkian, Fraser, Clore, Saatchi and so many other public benefactors whose names become associated with galleries, charitable foundations, etc, are the wealth creators not "fat cats".

"Fat cats", by contrast, are in my opinion the many faceless and undistinguished directors of companies who award themselves huge salaries, pensions and option benefits, whose emoluments come from shareholders' funds, and whose input and presence on their various boards passes largely unnoticed. These individuals are appointed and retire without seemingly causing a ripple in the company's fortunes.

I agree that you cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the rich, but let us distinguish between the creative rich benefactors whose inspiration gives employment to many, and those passengers who will seldom give back to society any part of what they have been fortunate enough to receive from others.

Yours etc,
NIGEL DEWAR GIBB,
15 Kirklee Road, Glasgow 12.

Motorway policy

From Mr Paul Watters

Sir, I hope that the Government will heed your call (leading article, "Congest and confound", July 29) for money released from cancelled road schemes to be used to fund other forms of transport. However, road expenditure cuts in the recent years have not directly funded even the most modest alternative transport scheme. At the same time, the postponement of the widening of the M25 is likely to "congest and confound" the millions who use this motorway.

I doubt whether you, the Government or anyone else can suggest alternatives that could be introduced in time to stave off what I predict will be inevitable gridlock on the M25, which will cause more environmental damage and economic disruption, and impose nightmare conditions on nearby unsuitable roads.

In the absence of alternatives, will the Government consider sealing off the M25 to the people of Surrey and west London, for instance? Or ban drivers from leaving the motorway in this sector?

There are no painless solutions, but there is a best option for this particular area: widen the motorway within its existing boundaries and invest immediately in other forms of transport to avoid the need of ever having to widen the M25 again.

Yours sincerely,
P. WATTERS
(Head, Roads and
Transportation Policy),
The Automobile Association,
Norfolk House, Priestley Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
July 29.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

No 'dead-end' for Belgian okapi

From the Ambassador of Belgium

Sir, Matthew Parris, in his Political Sketch of July 17, "Labour's okapi gallops towards a Darwinian dead-end", is of course right to call the Antwerp Zoo "an unexpected pleasure of Belgium as a tourist destination". I wish, however, to reassure him that although the okapi in Antwerp might occasionally "huddle in the Belgian mist", it is certainly not the case that their expression is one of "infinite pathos" because they realise that they are at "a Darwinian dead-end". In Antwerp they are not.

In the last 26 years, 30 young okapi have been born in the "drizzle" and "mist" Mr Parris so graphically (if not always climatically correct) describes. Antwerp Zoo — so I am told by the keeper of its okapi, Mr Van Puyenbroek — is very successful in breeding okapi, which is not at all an easy task. The pregnancy takes 14 months and the female okapi is excessively meticulous in choosing her mate (who seems to serve no other purpose and is immediately dismissed).

Mr Parris will be pleased to learn that although London Zoo has only one okapi, it is expecting another one soon ... through the good offices of Antwerp Zoo.

Yours etc,
LODE WILLEMS,
Belgian Embassy,
103 Eaton Square, SW1.
July 30.

Good breeding

From Mrs Lindley Good

Sir, The naturalists who destroyed the hybrid embryo of a Spix's and an Illiger's macaw (report, July 29) were misguided in my view. Had it survived, the chick might well have been sterile; if not, and it had bred back to the last remaining Spix's or with another Illiger's macaw, the result might not have been so very dire.

Rather than see hybrids fluttering around the Brazilian forests, the scientists involved would seem to prefer to see Spix's macaw die out altogether in the wild. But nature provides some species with a last-ditch opportunity to pass on their genes in this way and, having no other options, our lonely Spix's is clearly prepared to risk it. Who are we to argue? In nature, half a loaf, genetically speaking, is always better than none.

Yours faithfully,
LINDLEY GOOD,
21 North End,
Meldreth, Royston, Hertfordshire.
July 29.

Moral politics

From Mr Andrew E. A. Selous

Sir, In response to David Selbourne's remarks (letter, July 28) on the "ethical impoverishment" of Conservative politics, I would like to suggest that the Tory beliefs of strong commitment to the local community, traditional family values, the work ethic, enterprise and regular churchgoing are alive and well.

They are represented in the belief and practice of John Randall, the Conservative victor in yesterday's Uxbridge by-election, and were no doubt recognised and applauded as such by the electors of Uxbridge.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW E. A. SELOUS,
52 Kyrle Road, SW1.
August 1.

Brass eagles

From the Reverend
Charles Robertson

Sir, As minister of Canongate Kirk (The Kirk of Holyroodhouse), I have more than a passing interest in the pre-Reformation brass eagle lectern removed from St Stephen's Church, St Albans in 1985 (letter, July 29).

The lectern originally stood in the nave of Holyrood Abbey (which served as a the parish church for Canongate), but was looted from there in 1544 and installed in St Stephen's Church. There is a strong case for claiming it as belonging still to the parish church of Canongate.

The time has come for the eagle to be released from its present secret location and allowed to wing its way homeward to its proper place and use in the parish kirk of Canongate. I look forward to the day when I can vary our customary Call to Divine Worship with the words: "The eagle has landed. Let us worship God."

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
yours faithfully,
CHARLES ROBERTSON,
Manse of Canongate,
Edinburgh EH8 8BR.

Here is thy sting

From Mr Jeremy Billingham

Sir, In the light of recent coverage on the subject of euthanasia, readers of pensionable age living on the Kent/Sussex border should know of a service currently advertised in our local newspaper, *The Courier*:

Wasps nests destroyed	£20
O.A.P.s	£15

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BILLINGHAM,
The Jetty House, 3 The Acorns,
Stonegate, Wadhurst, East Sussex.
July 26.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 1: The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh and The Duke of York, this afternoon opened the American Air Museum in Britain at Duxford and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden). The Duke of Kent (President of the Imperial War Museum), Field Marshal the Lord Bramall KG (Chairman) and the Ambassador of the United States of America (His Excellency the Hon William Crowe, Jr).

Her Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses toured the museum, escorted by Mr Robert Crawford (Director General of the Imperial War Museum) and Mr Edward Inman (Director, Duxford Airfield) viewing the exhibition, and meeting veterans, members of staff and others connected with the museum, and afterwards witnessed fly-pasts of American and British aircraft.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Commander Harry Abram (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire) at the Memorial Service for the Lord Goold which was held in Glasgow Cathedral this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 1: The Duke of York, Patron, this afternoon visited the Jubilee Sailing Trust at the Jubilee Yard, Woolston, Southampton, and was received by Mr Michael Campbell (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire).

KENSINGTON PALACE
August 1: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, today visited the 1st Battalion at Oakington Barracks, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire, in celebration of Minden Day.

Her Royal Highness was received by Brigadier Peter Williams (Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire).

KENSINGTON PALACE
August 1: The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, this evening took the salute at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Edinburgh Castle.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for August was won with bond number 43PF 266021. The winner lives in Lancashire, and has a bond holding of £800.

Institute of Masters of Wine

Mr A.W. Gunn has been elected as the Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine for 1997/98.

The following have passed the 1997 Master of Wine Examination held simultaneously in London, San Francisco and Sydney in May: Stephen Charters (Aus), Andrew Corrigan (Aus), Mark de Vere (USA), Rebecca Hull (UK), Laura-Louise Jewell (UK), Jane Kay (UK), Dermot Nolan (Eire), Sabrina Sykes (UK), Lord Tedder (Aus), Simon Thorpe (UK), Anne Tupker (UK).

Service dinner

Blythe Sappers

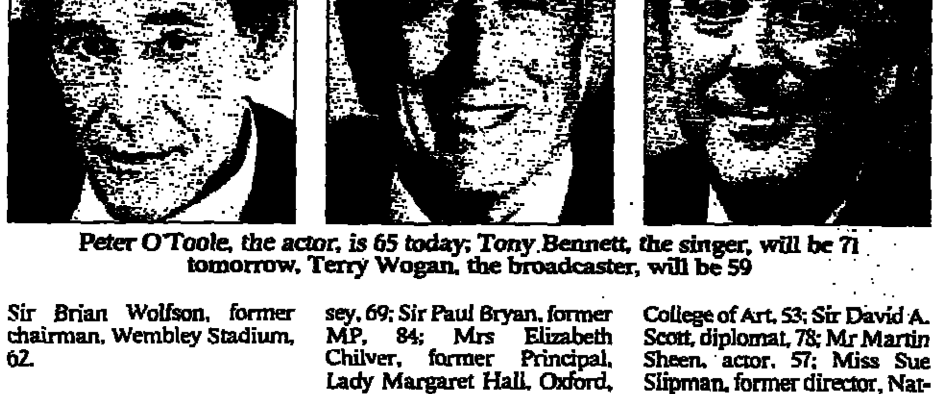
Brigadier I.D.T. McGill and Brigadier and Mrs R. Pridham were the principal guests at a dinner given by the Blythe Sappers last night at the Royal Engineers' Headquarters Mess, Chatham. Sapper D. Dennington presided.

Scriveners' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Scriveners' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr D. Jackson; Upper Warden, Mr O.J.R. Kinsey; Renter Warden, Mr N.A. Grimston.

Weekend birthdays



Peter O'Toole, the actor, is 65 today; Tony Bennett, the singer, will be 71 tomorrow, Terry Wogan, the broadcaster, will be 59

TODAY:
Mr Eddie Bell, executive chairman and publisher, HarperCollins Publishers, UK, 48; Mr John Broome, founder, Alton Towers theme park, 54; Mr J.M. Davies, Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, 57; Mr John Gale, theatre producer, 78; Sir John Hannam, former MP, 78; Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, Allied Domecq, 61; Professor George Jenkins, haematologist, 70; Dr George Kimble, geographer, 89; Sir Reginald Murley, surgeon, 81; Lord Murray of Epping Forest, 75; Sir Brian Neill, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 74; Professor Sir Michael Peckham, oncologist, 62; Mr Richard Simmonds, chairman, Countryside Commission, and former MEP, 53; Professor Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, FRS, mathematician, 70; Ms Rose Tremain, novelist and playwright, 54; Mr Alan Tuffin, trade unionist, 64; Lord Waddington, QC, 68; Mr Alan Whicker, broadcaster, 72; Lord Wigram, 82; Sir Brian Wolfson, former chairman, Wembley Stadium, 62.

TOMORROW:
Sir John Anson, civil servant, 67; Air Marshal Sir Peter Bairsto, 71; Mr Steven Berkoff, actor, director and writer, 60; Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander Boswell, former Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Guernsey, 69; Sir Paul Bryan, former MP, 84; Mrs Elizabeth Chilver, former Principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 83; Mr Peter Easterby, racehorse trainer, 68; Mr Josh Gifford, racehorse trainer, 56; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC, former chairman, Financial Reporting Review Panel, 52; Baroness James of Holland Park, 77; Professor Anthony Jones, former Rector, Royal College of Art, 53; Sir David A. Scott, diplomat, 78; Mr Martin Sheen, actor, 57; Miss Sue Slipman, former director, National Council for One Parent Families, 48; Mr Jack Straw, Secretary of State for the Home Department, 51; Sir Jock Taylor, diplomat, 73; Sir George Waller, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 86; the Right Rev Dr R.P. Wilson, former Bishop of Chichester, 92.

Anniversaries

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Joseph John Gurney, philanthropist and writer, Earlham Hall, Norfolk, 1788; Nicholas Wiseman, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster 1850-65, Seville, 1802; Henry Olcott, co-founder of the Theosophical Society, Orange, New Jersey, 1832; Francis Marion Crawford, novelist, Bagni di Lucca, Italy, 1854; Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Musick 1953-75, London, 1891.

DEATHS: William II (Rufus), reigned 1087-1100, New Forest, Hampshire, 1100; Thomas Gainsborough, painter, London, 1788; Jacques Montgolfier, pioneer of ballooning, Annonay, France, 1799; "Wild Bill" Hickok, US Marshal, murdered, Deadwood, Dakota, 1876; Marcus Clarke, writer, Melbourne, 1881; Enrico Caruso, tenor, Naples, 1921; Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, Beinn Bhreagh, Nova Scotia, 1922; Warren Harding, 29th American President 1921-23, San Francisco, 1923; Paul von Hindenburg, President of the Weimar Republic 1925-34, Neudich, 1934; Louis Blériot, first person to fly the Channel (1909), Paris, 1936; Pietro Mascagni, composer, Rome, 1945; Wallace Stevens, poet, Hartford, Connecticut, 1955; Fritz Lang, film director, Los Angeles, 1976; Carlos Chavez, composer, Mexico, 1978.

Death duties were introduced into Britain, 1894.

Iraq invaded Kuwait, 1990.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: John (Orator) Henley, preacher, Melton Mowbray, 1692; James Wyatt, architect, Burton Constable, Staffordshire, 1746; Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl Stanhope, politician and man of science, London, 1753; Sir Joseph Paxton, gardener and designer of the Crystal Palace, Milton Bryant, Bedfordshire, 1801; Elisha Otis, pioneer of the safety lift, Halifax, Vermont, 1811; Alfred Deakin, Prime Minister of Australia 1903-4, 1905-8 and 1909-10, Melbourne, 1856; Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, Prime Minister 1923, 1924-29 and 1935-37, Lower Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire, 1867; Haakon VII, King of Norway 1905-57, Charlottenlund, 1872; Rupert Brooke, poet, Rugby, 1887; Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, Primate of Poland 1949-81, Zuzela, near Warsaw, 1901.

DEATHS: King James II of Scotland, reigned 1437-60, killed, Roxburgh Castle, 1460; Grinling Gibbons, wood carver, London, 1721; Johann Matthias Gesner, scholar, Göttingen, 1761; Sir Richard Arkwright, inventor, Cromford, Derbyshire, 1792; Pierce Egan the Elder, sporting writer, London, 1849; Charles Garnier, architect, Paris, 1898; Sir Roger Casement, Irish nationalist, executed for high treason, London, 1916; Joseph Conrad, novelist, Canterbury, 1924; Albert Frederick Pollard, historian, Milford-on-Sea, 1948; Colette, writer, Paris, 1954; Archbishop Makarios III, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus and President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nicosia, 1977.

Germany declared war on France, 1914.

At the Battle of Cannae, the Roman army supply depot was seized by a smaller army led by Hannibal, 216 BC.

La Scala opera house in Milan opened, 1778.

The first traffic lights in Britain were installed at Piccadilly Circus, 1926.

University news

Oxford

Hicks and Webb Medley Prizes 1997 for the best performance in Economics in the Honour Schools of Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and Modern History and Economics, have been awarded to:

Andrew Green, Keble College; Mark A. Collins, Lady Margaret Hall; Ms Lucy A.C. Eyre, New College.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr J.W. Godfrey
and Señorita A.M. Alvear**

The engagement is announced between James Woide, son of Mr Charles Woide Godfrey and Mrs Angela Godfrey, of Jersey, CI, and Adria Margarita, elder daughter of Señor Orlando Alvear and Señora Amira Vengoechea, of Colombia.

**Mr D.W. Mansell
and Miss A.J. Grant**

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Brian Mansell, of Truro, Cornwall, and Amanda, daughter of Mr Ian Grant and the late Mrs Grant, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

**Mr J.E. O'Reilly
and Miss S. Morton**

The engagement is announced between Justin, second son of Captain and Mrs Derek O'Reilly, of Fonthill Gifford, Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Sara, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Glennon Morton, of Peoria, Illinois.

**Dr S. Reschke
and Miss S.M. Whitcomb**

The engagement is announced between Sebastian, only son of Dr Siegfried Reschke, of Duisburg, Germany, and Dr Astrid von Pufendorf, of Düsseldorf, Germany, and Stephanie, younger daughter of Major and Mrs Stuart Whitcomb, of Hatfield Park, Hertfordshire.

**Major S.J. Robinson
and Miss A.D. Wright**

The engagement is announced between Major Simon Robinson, Royal Artillery, son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Robinson, of Newton Tracey, Devon, and Amelisa, eldest daughter of Mr D.J. Wright, of Clapham, London, and Mrs L.D. Wright, of Billingshurst, West Sussex.

**Mr D. Edgar
and Ms J. Appleton**

The marriage will take place today at St John's Church, Harborne, between Mr Dominic Edgar and Ms Jill Appleton. The Rev Geoff Lanham will officiate.

**Mr J.M.G. Pattinson
and Miss S.C.C. Smith**

The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs Mark Pattinson, of Kishorn, Wester Ross, and Sasha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Smith, of Warkworth, Oxfordshire.

**Dr P. Scott
and Miss G. Crotty**

The engagement is announced between Peter, second son of Mr and Mrs Robert Scott, of Pembrokeshire, Wales, and Gillian, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Matthew Crotty, of Kensington, London.

**Mr R.H. Thomas, FRCS,
and Miss I.M. Mackenzie**

The engagement is announced between Rhys, son of Dr and Mrs G.O. Thomas, of Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, and Iona, younger daughter of the late Mr D. Mackenzie and of Mrs I. Mackenzie, of Cardiff, Glamorgan.

Marriage

**Mr A. Innes
and Miss H. Drinkwater**

The marriage took place on Saturday, July 12, at St Andrew's Church, Cherry Hinton, between Mr Andrew Innes, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Innes, of Keighley, Yorkshire, and Miss Helen Drinkwater, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs S.P. Drinkwater, of Wimbish, Essex.

Church in Wales

The Rev Norman Brown, Vicar of Miskin, resigned as Canon of Llandaff Cathedral (St Cross) and Rural Dean of Aberdare on June 1 and will retire from the Benefice of Miskin on September 1.

The Venerable David Lee, Archdeacon of Llandaff and Rector of Llanfaboan, will retire on September 30.

The Rev Jack Buttimore, Vicar of Caerau with Ely and Canon of Llandaff Cathedral (Llangwm), will retire on September 23.

The Rev Glyn Austin, Vicar of Nantymoel with Wyndham, has been appointed Vicar of Pontyclun & Talygarn. The Institution and Induction took place on July 23.

The Rev Brian Taylor, Curate of Aberdare, has been appointed Vicar of Cwmparc.

The Rev Andrew Bookless, Curate of Llangynwyd with Maesteg, has been appointed Vicar of Bargoed and Deri with Brithdir.

The Rev Stephen Ryan, Vicar of Aberdare St Fagan, is also to be Rural Dean of Aberdare. The Commissioning took place on July 11.

Latest wills

Alfred Edwin Peto **Bennett**, of London, SW3, left estate valued at £6,618,965 net.

Sir Roger **Falk**, of Dolphin Square, London, Vice-President of Sadler's Wells Foundation and Trust since 1986, left estate valued at £535,391 net.
He left £20,000 to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, £10,000 to both the Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund and Trinity Hospice, Clapham, and the £5,000 to the Sadler's Wells Foundation.

Lady **Southampton**, of Chagford, Devon, left estate valued at £205,250 net.

Lady **Robbins**, of London N10, left estate valued at £386,686 net.

David Francis Hamilton **McCormick**, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £3,201,446 net.

William **Procter**, of Blackpool, left estate valued at £2,766,204 net.

Emmy **Brown**, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,319,477 net.
She left shares in her estate to the Cancer Research Campaign, Police Dependants' Trust, Army Benevolent Fund, World Wildlife Fund — UK, RSPB, and the British Heart Foundation.

Robert Sidney **Chavasse**, of Reading, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,012,248 net.

George **Cormack**, of Morpeth, Northumberland, left estate valued at £1,421,588 net.

Marjorie Elizabeth **Howe**, of Penrith, Cumbria left estate valued at £1,066,812 net.

Susan **Smith**, of Strensall, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,914,886 net.

Richard James **Wilson**, of Oadby, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £1,667,225 net.

Bertram Sydney **Benjamin**, of London, W1, left estate valued at £1,712,974 net.
He left £50,000 to Haifa Technion, £25,000 each to Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, Ben Gurion University, Negev, Tel Aviv University; the Boys Town Jerusalem, Bet Jakov Avot Ashdod (Girls Home), Asdod, and the home for Destitute Children (Kiryatzanz).

Arnold George **Billington**, of Newbury, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,118,846 net.

Nancy Barbara **Hare**, of Wrington, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,011,974 net.

Robert Michael **Hose**, of London, W2, left estate valued at £1,633,876 net.

John Edwin Oakley **Mayne**, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £1,216,376 net.

Margaret Hunter **Pritchard**, of Wellington, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,050,834 net.

Gwynneth Mary **Rees**, of Sketty, Swansea, left estate valued at £1,861,792 net.
She left £2,000 to the PDSA and to Swansea RSPCA Animal Centre; £1,000 to the Salvation Army and to Pantygwyder Church, Uplands, Swansea. She also left shares in her estate to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad, PDSA, RSPCA, Barnardo's, SCOPE, St Dunstan's, NSPCC, Sight Savers International, Swansea Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, Swansea Mission to Seamen, Ex-Service Mental Welfare Society, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Parkinson's Disease Society, Swansea and District Friends of the Blind, and the Trust Fund of Ty Olwne Committee.

Phyllis Mary **Tewson**, of Winchmore Hill, London, N21, left estate valued at £2,500,798 net.
She left £1,000 to St Paul's Church, London, N21, £500 to the Inner Wheel Club, Southgate, and shares in her residuary estate to: Solicitors Benevolent Association, Greater London Fund for the Blind, Church of England Children's Society, RNID, Salvation Army, Save the Children (Enfield), and the NSPCC.

Church services tomorrow

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch; 6.30 EP.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Jesu, Joy of man's desiring (Bach), The Dean; 3.15 E.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Mass in the Dorian mode (Howells), O saviour of the world (Howells), The Provost; 4 Ch E, Responses (Howells), Stanford in G.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch; 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch, Mass in four voices (Byrd), Canon E John; 3.30 E, Sumsion in A, Responses (Ebdon).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Missa brevis in D, A sacrum convivium (Leighton), Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Neswick), Harris in D, The Dean.

CADEIRLAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 Euch, Rev H Davies; 5 HC.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, If ye love me (Vann), Rev M Nazir; 3.15 E, Responses (Vann), O sacrum convivium (Vann); 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Rhosymedre (Vaughan Williams), Locus iste (Bruckner), Vicar of Cartmel Priory; 3 E, Sumsion in A, Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Euch, Canon D Knight; 6 Ch E, Rev I Moody.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 Ch M, Responses (Ayleward), Te Deum (Williamson), Canon M Rees; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Sumsion), Noble in B minor; 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in B flat, Rev J McKechnie; 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, Ave verum (Saint Saens), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Dyson in F, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Canon Peirce; 11.15 S Euch, Lord, not to us (Henderson), The Precentor; 6 E, Dyson in D.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Rev T Chesterman; 6 Ch E, Responses (Reading), Almighty and Everlasting God (Gibbons), Rev R Parsons.

DUBLIN CATHEDRAL: 11 SE, Messe basse (Fauré), the Humberstone Service (Carter), Laudate Dominum (Mozart), Ave verum corpus (Mozart); 3.30 CE, Sumsion in G, Laudate Dominum)Mozart).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Ireland in F, O for a closer walk with God, Canon R Coppin; 11.15 HC, Colle; 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in A, Collegium Regale (Howells), Rev K Holm; 3.45 E.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Canon K Parry; 11.15 M, Responses (Smith), Stanford in B flat, Canon D Ison; 3 E, Responses (Carelse), Dyson in D; 6.30 ES, Canon A Mawson.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch, Ireland in C, Canon N Heavisides; 3 E, O sing joyfully (Batten).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Bishop of Dorking; 11.15 M, Stanford in C, Though I speak with the tongues of men (Bairstow), Mrs D Goddard; 6.30 E, Responses (Wills), Harwood in A flat, Rev J Gordon Clark.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Set me as a seal (Walton), The Treasurer; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat, Expectans expectavi (Wood); 3.30 E, Stanford in C, Blessed city, heavenly Salem (Bairstow), The Dean.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch; 4 Ch E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E, Jubilate (Howells), Rev D Austerberry; 3.30 E, Responses (Neary), Howells in G.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M; 3.45 E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch; 3 Ch E; 4 HC.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Canon A Radcliffe; 6.30 EP.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Canon I Bennett; 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 Euch, Canon K Denison; 6.30 Ch E, Read in C, O praise God in his holiness, The Archdeacon.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 10.30 Euch, Ireland in C, The Lord is my shepherd (Rutter), The Dean; 3.30 E, Armstrong in D minor, O praise God in his holiness (Paul).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 Euch, Darke in E, Agnus Dei (Morley), Rev D Murfet; 11.30 M, Elgar in F, O what their joy (Harris).

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Responses (Ayleward), Te Deum (Britten); 10.30 S Euch, The eyes of all wait upon Thee (Berger), Ven N Warren; 3.15 E, I was glad (Ferko), Friedeland in F.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Canon J Davies; 11.30 M, Canon S Holbrooke-Jones; 3 E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Canon T Page; 6.30 E, Canon J Sinclair.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Missa brevis in F (Rheinberger), Be still, my soul (Whitlock), The Provost; 3 Ch E, Noble in B minor, Show us your mercy, O Lord (Hallock), Rev D G Brown; 6.30 Ch Euch, Stanford in C, Rejoice in the Lord always (Anon), The Provost.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis in F (Mozart), The Librarian; 6 E, Responses (Ebdon), Short Service (Gibbons), Canon R Gilbert.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 6.30 E, Responses (Walsh), For lo, I raise up (Stanford), The Provost.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Ven R F Acworth; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Wood), Lead me Lord (Wesley); 3 E, Brewer in D, Preb A R Wallace.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Shephard), Te Deum in B flat (Stanford), Canon A Harvey; 11.15 Euch, Set me as a seal (Walton), O sacrum convivium (Matthews), Rev B Fenton; 3 E, Collegium regale (Howells), Rev Dr R Withycombe; 6.30 ES, Canon A Harvey.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Te Deum (Howells), The Archdeacon of Basingstoke; 11.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow); 3.30 E, Thou knowest, Lord (Purcell), Dyson in D, The Dean.

YORK MINSTER: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10 S Euch, Missa secunda (Hassler); 11.30 S Euch; 4 E, Noble in B minor, Save us, O Lord (Bairstow), Rev Prof E Norman

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Rev K Goulstone; 3.30 EP.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Mathias in C, Collegium Regale (Howells); 11.30 Ch M, Responses (Rise), Stanford in C; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Leighton), Dyson in D.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Rev R Frazer; 3 Rev R Frazer; 6 Rev R Frazer.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton), Canon M Saward; 3.15 E, There is an old belief (Parry), Collegium Magdalenae Oxoniense (Leighton), Rev J Risdon.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev Dr J Stott; 6.30 Rev P Blackham.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa douce memoire (Lassus), My soul there is a country (Parry).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 11 C, Rev Dr P Elvy; 4 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev Dr D Duncan; 12.20 HC; 6.30 Rev J McMahon.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC; 11 Morning Service, Mr J Jennings; 5 Informal Service, Rev N Lee; 7.30 Informal Service, Rev N Lee.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Sicut cervus (Palestrina); 3.30 Ave verum (Gounod).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 HC, Rev Dr G Barritt.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Rev E Fletcher

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev J Beckwith; 6.30 E, Wise in F, Sancte Deus (Tallis), Mr P Carter.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M & Euch, Jubilate, Stanford in B flat, Robinson in C, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells), Canon J Oates; 6.30 E, Responses - Byrd, Surge illuminare (Palestrina), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch Euch, Sanctus (Fauré), Coronation Mass (Mozart), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev C I MacLeod; 6.30 Rev C I MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9 M; 11 Sung M, Missa quarti toni (Victoria), Salvator mundi (Blow).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Viadana), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in A (Franck), Panis Angelicus (Franck), Rev A Meldrum; 6 E.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, M Grey; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 C, March in D (Handel), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 10.30 S Euch, Ave Maria (Dupré), Rev J Streeting; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, O quam gloriosum (Byrd), Rev J Streeting.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Merbecke, Rev T Devonshire-Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Asola), Fr S Young; 6 E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, New English Hymnal, Rev J Ovenden; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa L'hora passa (Viadana), Prof J Caldwell; 6.30 Healing Service.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Anerio), O sacrum convivium (Croce), Fr W P Keyes.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M; 6.30 E, Preb M McGowan

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Ch HC, God is our refuge (Mozart), Tantum Ergo (Mozart), Rev D Wall.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: No services during August - College leave.

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"How dull you are", he answered. "How slow to believe all that the prophets said. Was not the Messiah bound to suffer in this way before entering upon his glory?" Luke 24 : 25

BIRTHS

COE - On July 27th 1997 at Wycombe General, to Julie (née Walters) and Peter, a son, Harrison Robert Courtauld, a brother for Charlie.

COSTELLO - On 17th July 1997, to Beth (née Krabbé) and Trevor, a son, Sam Charles Anthony.

DICKSON - On 24th July, to Amanda (née Watts) and Richard, a son, Edward James Richard.

FAIRLEY - On 30th July 1997, to Penelope Jane (née Seaton) and John, a son, James William Alexander.

FERGUSON - On Monday 28th July, to Jane (née Tucker) and John, a son, Thomas, a brother for James.

FRASER - On July 25th, to Nicolette (née Le Pelley) and Maurice, a son, Theodore, a brother for Constantine and Celestine.

GANNON - On July 8th in Kingston, Surrey, to Jane and Ciaran, twins, Fionnuala and Johanna, sisters for Daisy, Jess and Jenny.

BIRTHS

GLADSTONE - On July 30th, to Caroline (née Thomas) and Charles, a daughter, Kinvara Rose, a sister for Jack, India, Tara and Xanthe.

GRAY - On 20th July 1997, to Louise (née Johncox) and Michael, a daughter, Lara Georgina.

GREEN - On July 22nd, to Ros (née Artale) and Charlie, a son, William Toby Seager, a brother for Anna.

GROUT - On July 23rd 1997 at Hereford County Hospital, to Sarah (née Gill) and Andrew, a daughter, Briony Joy.

HAARHUIS - On July 16th at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, to Nicola and Peter, a daughter, Olivia Jeanne Willemina, a welcome sister for Charlotte.

KIRMOND-PAINE - On July 28th, to Anne (née Kirmond) and Martin, a son, Thomas Henry.

LITTLE - On July 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Emma (née Lowndes) and Christopher, a son, James Guthrie, a brother for Charlotte.

MACLEAN - On 27th July 1997, to David and Annie (née Martin), a daughter, Imogen Cordelia Anne, a sister for Hugh and Rory.

McINTOSH - On July 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Dawn (née Hult) and Roy, a daughter, Ellen Anna.

MYNORS - On 25th June 1997, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Hammersmith, to Charles and Janet, a son, David Francis Rickards - not a replacement for Katherine, but a brother for Elizabeth.

SANDERS - On July 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Tara and Simon, a beautiful son, Max.

TRUSTED - On 26th July 1997 in London, to Mary (Anderson) and Harry, a son, John Richard.

WHITFIELD - On 28th July, to Michelle (née Midgley) and Michael, a prop forward, Charlie, brother to Belinda.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

RODGER:BAZLEY - On 3rd August 1957 at St Mary's Church, Handforth, Martin to Janet (Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz, P.O. Box 4, Disley, Stockport, SK12 2NE.)

DEATHS

ApSIMON - Dr. Hugh Ellis Gardiner ApSimon on 30th July 1997 at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, the husband of Helen Mary ApSimon and brother of Rosemary Philpott. Private cremation at Aldershot Crematorium 12.30 pm, 6th August. Donations if desired to R.N.L.I.

AUSTIN - On Tuesday July 29th 1997, Leonard Edwin (Bunny) aged 83. Dearly loved husband of Mavis, much loved father of Piers and grandpa of Matthew and Daniel. Will be greatly missed by sister Mary and all his family and friends. Funeral enquiries Thorne-Leggett, tel: 01420-488896.

BRENNAN - Stella (née Peart) (Hermitage, Drinagh, Wexford) July 31st 1997, peacefully after a short illness, beloved wife of John, and mother of Carol, Patricia, Pam, and Sally; deeply regretted by her family, grandchildren, sister and brothers.

FJELL-SMITH - (Gorman). On July 22nd, Marsha, aged 57, at St Christopher's Hospice, after a short illness. Ashes laid to rest beside her father and mother at Eltham on July 30th. Donations welcome to Macmillan Fund or St Christopher's.

HINTON - Freda Millicent Lillian on 31st July 1997 aged 88, dearly loved. Widow of Walter, mother of Michael, grandmother of Catherine, Jennifer and Timothy, great-grandmother of Hamish, Finley and Angus. Cremation at Southend Crematorium on Tuesday 12th August at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Help the Elderly (c/o F. Gulver & Sons Ltd, 641 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2PN) for whom she worked so hard for many years.

KNEEN - On July 31st peacefully at home Brigadier J.M. Kneen, late REME, much loved husband of Bubbles and father of Tom. Private cremation, family only. Thanksgiving Service St James's Church, Finchampstead, Berks. at 2pm on Wednesday 6th August. No flowers please, donations if desired for Marie Curie Nurses c/o House of Grace, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berks.

PULLEN - Lester W., beloved husband of Angela and father of Samantha, William and Benjamin. Suddenly at home in Nassau on July 30th

SHAW - Edwin MC, FRMC, died peacefully on July 18th 1997 aged 82. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral private.

SIMON - Ulrich Ernst on 31st July, husband of Joan, father of Sophia, Martin and Peter. Funeral to be arranged.

THACKERAY - On July 30th peacefully at home John Robinson Angus aged 65 years, married to and loved by Joyce Rose for 35 years who will miss him always as will sons John, Peter, Richard and grandson Nathan. An Assistant Superintendent in the Tanganyika Police, a Squadron Leader in the RAF Regiment and later of Hawkhills Civil Defence College, he served his country proudly. His funeral will take place at 12 noon August 6th at St John the Baptist and All Saints Church, Easingwold, followed by a private cremation.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

McLACHLAN - Marylynn. One year since the loss of a daughter and sister, sadly missed. R.I.P. Love Phyllis and Clare.

BIRTHDAYS

FOR my lovely Leigh, happy birthday and together always, with all my love Johnny

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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هكذا من الأصل

SVYATOSLAV RICHTER

Svyatoslav Richter, concert pianist, died yesterday in a Moscow hospital aged 82. He was born in Zhitomir, Ukraine, on March 20, 1915.

Widely regarded as one of the most important pianists of his day — and indeed as one of the most remarkable and interesting keyboard interpreters of the century — Svyatoslav Richter became as legendary as the music he performed, thanks to his elusive personality and nervous temperament.

Richter was a noted champion of Prokofiev's piano works, and his concerts were exceptional occasions. This was in part because of his proneness to cancel, but more importantly because his playing was subtle, intense and unique to the moment. He was truly making music, not facilely reproducing it.

For many, the four concerts — two public and two private — which he gave in Britain in 1989 were the highlights of their concert-going lives, events that are still recalled with excitement today by those who were lucky enough to be present. At his appearance in the Barbican Centre that year, playing Mozart and Chopin, he declined to return to the stage after one cursory bow at the end of the concert. A quarter of an hour later the audience, still on its feet, was still cheering, stamping and applauding for more.

Svyatoslav Teofilovich Richter was the son of a pianist, organist, composer and teacher of Polish descent, who had lived in Vienna for 20 years before moving to Zhitomir, where he married one of his pupils. Shortly after the young Richter's birth, the family moved to Odessa, a Ukrainian town where some of the century's most remarkable musicians — including Oistrakh, Gilels, Milstein and Cherkassky — spent their formative years.

Initially self-taught at the piano, Richter subsequently took piano lessons from one of his father's pupils, and developed an exceptional skill in playing from orchestral scores at sight. This led, by the age of 15, to the post of *repetiteur* at the Odessa Opera, though not, as has been claimed, that of assistant conductor. By his own testimony he conducted there only once in his life, when he directed his friend the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich in the 1952 premiere of Prokofiev's Symphony Concerto.

Although he was not a child-prodigy in the usual sense, Richter's remarkable talents were evident at an early age. By the time he was eight he had begun composing, and four years later he had written his first opera, based on a story by Maeterlinck.

His debut came at the age of 19 in 1934, with an all-Chopin recital at the Sailors' Collective Circle in Odessa.

Entering the Moscow Conservatoire three years later, he studied with the famous teacher Heinrich Neuhaus who said at the time that he was a musical genius: "The span of his fingers is enormous and he is possessed with great intellectual powers."

Believing that to teach a good student was to spoil him, Neuhaus maintained a policy of what he called "benevolent neutrality". In later years he claimed for Richter supremacy above any other pianist he had ever heard, in subtlety of rhythm and in his visionary understanding of entire works.

Following his father's execution at the hands of Stalin in 1941, Richter's mother fled to Germany, and the young pianist became even more dependent on Neuhaus as a mentor.

His championing of Prokofiev began while he was still a student, with the first public performance of the 6th Sonata in 1940. He also premiered the 7th in 1943, and Prokofiev dedicated the 9th to him, and is gratefully remembered in the book of reminiscences Richter published in 1961. However, his repertory was now developing further, especially in the field of romantic music. For all his brilliance, Richter was a self-effacing artist, painfully devoted to making the very best he could of music of all kinds, from the self-communing of a Beethoven slow movement to the dazzle of a Liszt study, from the intellectual calm of a Bach fugue to the heady eroticism of a Scriabin prelude.

Official recognition of a two-edged kind came when Richter was exempted from all teaching duties, but effectively confined by the Soviet authorities to the then USSR and Eastern bloc countries. In 1945 he won the USSR Music Competition, and the Stalin prize followed in 1949. Other Soviet honours included Order of Lenin (1965) and Hero of Socialist Labour (1975).

His abilities had been spoken of in Britain long before he made his debut here in 1961. Visitors returning from Moscow or Prague brought tales of sublime concerts ecstatically received, but all attempts by Western concert-giving organisations to engage him were met with stories of contractual difficulties or mysterious illnesses. It was not until 1960 — two years after his tour of Russia with the Philadelphia Orchestra, playing Prokofiev's 5th Piano Concerto — that he came to the West, visiting Finland and the United States. When he finally came to London, every concert was sold out.

In 1964 he turned up almost unannounced at the Aldeburgh Festival, where he played Schubert, including the composer's A flat variations for piano duet with Benjamin Britten. He returned there three years later to play Britten's Piano Concerto. But Britten's intention of writing a large-scale solo piano piece for him was never realised, and neither was a planned visit in 1971, when, after the Foreign Office's expulsion of 105 Soviet spies, a number of other Russian artists on the billing also failed to appear.

The reasons for Richter's reputation were by now fully apparent. He was an artist of exceptional calibre, remarkable for his whole approach to the art of performance. The disappointing cancellations or "illnesses" were recognised as an essential aspect of his seriousness about music. He could not bear the prospect of an unworthy concert. Better to cancel than to betray his standards.

Richter's bull neck, bulk of torso and very slightly tilted, almost bald, head made him look ruthless, even sinister. His face was so emotionless, it could have been carved in granite. It gave nothing away. Yet despite this he was not without a dry, if somewhat sardonic, sense of humour. Dining with other pianists in Moscow in 1986, shortly after hearing the news that the emigrant Russian pianist Vladimir Horowitz was due to give a concert there later in the year, he wryly observed: "By the way, I heard that the best pianist in the world is coming to play for us."

In the concert hall he was fastidious about detail, demanding complete darkness, with just one small anglepoise lamp, which he operated himself, shining on the keys. He often played with the music in front of him.

His memorable visit to London in 1989 included a private concert of music by Schubert, Schumann and Prokofiev at St James's Church, Piccadilly, arranged by Elisabeth Schwarzkopf to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of her husband, the recording pioneer Walter Legge. The esteem in which Legge, Schwarzkopf and Richter were held could be measured by the attendance: the church was packed with pianists, many of them household names, and dozens of other representatives from the music Establishment.

Being smaller and more intimate than many venues, St James's, like Aldeburgh, suited Richter's uncompromising performing tastes. He was generally happiest playing away from large-scale festivals, in gatherings such as Spoleto or Hohenems. From 1964 he was the guiding inspiration of the Fêtes Musicales held annually at the Grange de Meslay, near Tours in France. He also excelled as a sensitive and considerate chamber pianist, accompanying on occasions such singers as Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and his own wife, Nina Dorliak.

A further visit to Britain in 1992, which included a number of regional towns, brought lavish acclaim, even if it lacked the sense of occasion of the 1989 performances. For most of his last years he had been living in Paris. He returned to Moscow from France only four weeks ago. His wife Nina Dorlaik survives him. There were no children of the marriage.

JEAN HISLOP

Jean Hislop, racehorse owner, died on July 28, aged 77. She was born on January 13, 1920.

LUCK, good or bad, is inseparable from the dramas of the Turf. Jean Hislop and her husband undoubtedly enjoyed an enormous slice of the good variety in being able to see her violet and cerise colours carried by one of the outstanding horses of the century, Brigadier Gerard.

Yet the horse's very existence was a quirk of fate. Brigadier Gerard's grandsire was March Past, himself a fast, game and consistent winner of ten races in the mid-1950s. March Past was trained by Ken Cundell, and because he was a rather backward colt who looked as if he would take time to prepare, his trainer decided he ought to be gelded. But March Past was the first horse ever owned by Mrs Gerald Trimmer-Thompson, and the apple of her eye, so Cundell abandoned the idea, not wanting to upset her.

Jean Hislop and her husband John with Brigadier Gerard after winning the Champion Stakes in 1972

His change of mind brought quite unexpected and astonishing benefits to bloodstock breeding. March Past's escape from the vet's knife enabled him to sire a remarkable number of highly successful horses. Among them was that top-class colt Queen's Hussar, who became sire in turn not only of Brigadier Gerard, but also of the Queen's 1,000 Guineas and French Oaks winner, Highclere.

Jean Hislop was born Jean Bankier, and was a war widow when she married John Hislop in 1945. Hislop was the leading amateur rider in post-war years and an immensely talented and stylish racing journalist writing on *The Observer*'s sports pages. With Jean as his partner, he also ran a small stud farm where, despite a modest income, they were able in time to realise Hislop's lifelong ambition to own a broodmare who was a descendant of that idol of Edwardian racing crowds Pretty Polly.

This was Brazen Molly, and her final foal was La Paiva (wittily named after a noted courtesan, whose naked form in bas-relief enlivens the ceiling of her former home, the Traveller's Club in Paris). La Paiva was originally a partnership horse, but at Jean's suggestion an outright interest was secured.

In 1968 La Paiva produced a foal by Queen's Hussar — and the beginning of a dream come true for the Hislops. This was Brigadier Gerard (another witty naming — after the Conan Doyle hero of his novels on the Napoleonic Wars). At the end of his unbeaten two-year-old season they were offered £250,000, but turned it down. As a three-year-old he again swept the board, beginning with his triumph in the 2,000 Guineas when he beat Mill Reef, and continuing with a series of important races, winding up with the Champion Stakes.

"The Brigadier", as he was popularly known, was trained by Major Dick Hern. Joe Mercer rode him, and the sight of them sweeping to victory with Mrs Hislop's colours was unforgettable. At four, he added further laurels including the Eclipse Stakes and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, but also suffered his only defeat when Roberto beat him in the Benson & Hedges Gold Cup. He nevertheless remained a truly great champion, with 17 triumphs to his name. Only two classic winners this century (his ancestor Pretty Polly, and Bayardo) have won more races.

Although no other horse carrying Mrs Hislop's colours scaled the heights of Brigadier Gerard, she had other successful runners, including his half-brother Brigade Major, who won the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap in 1973.

Like her husband (who died in 1994), Mrs Hislop lived for her horses, which in later years were trained by Clive Britain and Henry Candy. Although she had a reputation as a forceful character, those who knew her well saw beyond this and valued her good heartedness, charm and sense of humour. She is survived by two sons.

MOLELEKI MOKAMA

Moleleki Mokama, Chief Justice of Botswana, died from cancer in Johannesburg on July 5 aged 64. He was born on February 2, 1933.

MOLELEKI MOKAMA was a leading servant of the Republic of Botswana from the day it became independent in 1966. As a young lawyer he had played a part in the constitutional negotiations preceding independence, and as a diplomat he then represented the new nation in half a dozen European capitals. He then became the first non-white Attorney-General, and the first inhabitant of what was Bechuanaland to be called to the Bar by the Inner Temple. He held office for 22 years, becoming the longest-serving Attorney-General in the Commonwealth, before finally being appointed Chief Justice of Botswana.

Moleleki Mokama was educated at local schools in Bechuanaland — and served for a year as clerk to a district commissioner — before pursuing his studies at Fort Hare in South Africa. He graduated with a degree granted by Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

He was then expected by the administration of the Protectorate of Bechuanaland, which had given him a scholarship, to follow a career in teaching. However, he successfully petitioned the protectorate's commissioner for a further scholarship to study law in Britain.

In 1962 he was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple. Academic study did not come easily to him, so managing to pass his Bar finals was a relief. The night before sitting them he went into the adjoining room of another student to complain that he could not sleep. He asked for something to help him do so. The next day, having taken the proffered tablets, he expressed himself profoundly grateful for them, saying he had slept better than ever. More tablets were provided for the duration of the exams; only afterwards was Mokama told that he had been given aspirin.

Before returning to the Bechuanaland Protectorate, Mokama took a a Master of Laws degree at the University of London; he was later to be granted the same degree by Harvard for a thesis on a code of conduct for multinational corporations investing in developing countries.

He was fortunate enough to be a pupil of the future circuit judge Tom Kellock in the chambers of Dingle Foot, later Solicitor-General in Harold Wilson's Government. This early exposure to liberal influences no doubt accounted for the affection Mokama always felt for Britain.

On his return to Bechuanaland he was first employed as Crown Counsel. He was then involved in the negotiations that led to the introduction of the new constitution at the granting of independence in 1966. He was appointed as Botswana's first High Commissioner in London. He also served as Ambassador to France, Germany, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

In 1969 he became Botswana's Attorney-General. His role was much more extensive than the title suggests. He was an *ex officio* member of the National Assembly and of the Cabinet, and the principal negotiator of Botswana's mineral and loan agreements, which culminated in the development of the copper and diamond mines that have provided the solid basis of Botswana's economic success. He was a director of De Beers Botswana Mining Company from 1970 to 1991.

Always committed to human rights, Mokama became a commissioner with the Organisation of African Unity. Official travel frequently took him away from Botswana, and he lacked the time to supervise the day-to-day work of his department or to conduct major litigation personally. So the nascent state had to rely heavily upon expatriate staff both in the Attorney-General's department and in the judiciary, and the quality of their work was variable. Against this background, Mokama nevertheless managed to run a remarkably efficient department, and one that was an exemplar to other emerging nations.

Mokama's twin ideals were to uphold the constitution and justice, and to develop the interests of Botswana. The political and legal responsibilities of the job were not always easily reconcilable, but his long battle for both was creditable. He was appointed Chief Justice in 1992; once again he was the first Botswanan citizen to hold the post.

Yet Mokama remained close to his roots. He dearly loved his cattle ranch, where he also kept sheep and goats. He was also an avid collector of firearms and fountain pens.

He is survived by his wife, Kgopodiso, whom he married in the year he was called to the Bar, and by their son.

ROSY GIBB

Rosy Gibb, entertainer, died of cancer on July 13 aged 54. She was born on November 8, 1942.

ROSY GIBB was Britain's leading female clown and a member of the Magic Circle. As a former social worker and campaigner for the disadvantaged, she often performed for the mentally and physically handicapped, whom she delighted, and she also toured for the British Council.

Rosemary Elizabeth Jane Gibson was born in Dublin, the daughter of the eminent surgeon hypnotist Jack Gibson, whose calling enabled an impish ten-year-old to astonish her Guernsey science class by producing a foetus in a bottle.

Such antics were compensated by the distinction she brought the school as its swimming champion. Her prowess in this sport led to her swimming for Ireland (one of her backstroke records remains unbroken) in addition to rescuing a dog that was drowning in the Liffey, for which the RSPCA rewarded her with a gold medal. She also went on to represent the Channel Islands at tennis, netball and riding, and to perform as a showjumper for Britain.

At school in the Channel Isles and Africa, she was not always a model pupil, being a rebel as well as an athlete, and it was only a period of self-imposed swotting that took her to Trinity College Dublin in 1961. There she met her future husband, Andrew Gibb. She was incensed by the pomposity of the annual garden party, with its summer frocks and hats, and on one such occasion, attended by President de Valera, she insisted that Andrew squire her with her features obliterated by a paper bag. But she was also responsible for initiating a programme to encourage literacy among gypsies in Dublin. After Trinity, she moved to London in 1968 to take a postgraduate diploma in social administration.

The success of her literacy programme led to her ideas being adopted by the Inner London Education Authority, and she was engaged, until 1978, as the authority's first "travellers' teacher" (complete with collapsible classroom).

But it was her natural sense of fun that led to her ultimate vocation. With a friend's encouragement, as she neared her 40th year, she became an entertainer, beginning in the competitive cockpit of Hyde Park. While working in "street theatre", she gradually acquired the skills of the fire-eater, juggler, escapologist, conjurer, mime-artist and (with rather less success) unicyclist.

She performed in Covent Garden's busking arena and outdoor venues at home and abroad, honing her talents. As Rosy the Clown, she became a member of Clowns International, of which she was to become a leading light.

She even learnt the skills of the fakir, and on one visit to the home she maintained in Granada she successfully supported a 15-stone Spaniard as she lay on a bed of broken glass.

But it was perhaps her most recent work, as a magician, that gave her the greatest satisfaction. She won the coveted Craig Trophy of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and became a member of the Magic Circle. Her examination for membership of the Magic Circle was such a triumph that, but for lack of precedent, she would have been immediately accepted into the Inner Ring. Yet her appeal was anything but exclusive. She will be fondly remembered by the widest possible circle.

Rosy Gibb is survived by her husband and their daughter and son.

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ON THIS DAY

August 2, 1928

Geoffrey Winthrop Young, the celebrated English mountaineer, lost a leg in the First World War, but in the 1920s he began to experiment with an artificial leg on British hills. By 1927, with a little help from his friends, he felt sufficiently confident to return to the Alps.

A ONE-LEGGED CLIMBER.

ASCENT OF THE MATTERHORN.

(BY GEOFFREY WINTHROP YOUNG.)

ZERMATT

An athlete who loses the whole of one leg loses more than half his activity: because he loses also the rhythm, balance, pace, and anticipation in movement supplied by the team play of two legs. The legless man knows that his artificial limb has only one use: that of a rigid prop under one corner of his framework, to hold him up for a second while the other leg gets on with the work. On rough or steep ground, therefore, every alternate "step" is an unbalancing interruption, which the dynamic leg must recover in addition to doing its double work.

For a number of years after the War I was engaged in subduing the counter-workings of this prop — for actively helpful it can never be — and experimenting with it upon British hills. By 1927, I had produced a version moderately tame and sufficiently strong and light; and in that year a kindly conspiracy of younger mountaineers took me out again to the Alps, after 13 years' absence. On training expeditions of increasing length, I discovered that the fatigues or exhaustion which I had thought to have felt physically after a few hours' climbing were no more than the suggestions of that mental or nervous boredom with arrhythmic movement which is the worst enemy of the limbless. Finally, Mr. Claude A. Elliott, with the great guide Franz Lochmatter, and a magnificent second in Hans Brantschen, took me up Monte Rosa in none too easy snow conditions. The descent of the thigh-deep snow plateaux was only made possible for me by the use of a ski-tip, on which I was towed down the rough snow-rapids. A few hours' tramp across the glaciers to the Riffelalp ended an 18½ hours day of continuous going.

In July this year (1928) after some climbs in the Dolomites, we moved to Zermatt and tackled the Wellenkuppe, experiencing some laborious climbing and far from perfect snow conditions.

A day later, a bathe in the Findelen Lake determined me to finish the season with the Matterhorn. Mr. Elliott had gone off to do the Viereselgrat of the Dent Blanche (in record time), so I engaged an old friend, Brantschen, and another. The mule ride up to the little Belvedere refuge was exceeding perilous. After a rest we started at 10 pm ... We dispensed with a lantern, Hans helping me admirably, with knee and shoulder and guiding my metal peg to its footholds with the precision of a chess-player moving a pawn. Presently the lights of following parties showed in the darkness far below. By the Shoulder — this year a rubble and not a snow slope — most of them had caught us up. We wrestled up the precipices of the great Head, battling with a fierce north wind; and arrived (all but the last) upon the summit at 7.30 am ... And then came the long terrors of the grim descent - always worse than the ascent for the legless man. The vast east face looked, this snowless year, peculiarly ruinous, grey, and forbidding. But with the help of Hans, patience, and a new technique laboriously mastered, it was over at last ...

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY AUGUST 2 1997

NEWS

Blair peers take on Tory majority

■ Fifty-seven new life peers are named today, the largest number of peers appointed in a single announcement in modern times, as Tony Blair begins his attempt to reverse the inbuilt Tory domination of the House of Lords and big business shows its willingness to sign up to new Labour.

At the same time John Major rewards some of his most trusted allies, handing out honours to former Cabinet ministers **Page 1**

Surgeon 'let boy help him'

■ A senior surgeon has been suspended from duty while a complaint is investigated that he allowed a teenage schoolboy on work experience to assist him in an operation at the Mayday Hospital in Croydon .... **page 1**

Class size cost

Parents will lose rights to admission at popular primary schools because of the election pledge to keep class sizes to 30........ **Page 1**

Memories of war

The Queen and Charlton Heston met at the opening of a museum to commemorate the contribution of American air power to the defence of the western world .... **Page 2**

Cricket purge

Public school headmasters are planning a *purge* of unsporting conduct on the cricket field **Page 3**

Market chaos

Cuts by the Government in compensation for culled cows and in authorised abattoirs is causing increasing disruption at cattle markets .... **Page 4**

Blair's choice

Tony Blair has chosen Sir Richard Wilson to succeed Sir Robin Butler as Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service...... **Page 8**

Nuclear dig-in

Anti-nuclear protesters at Faslane are adopting tactics used in the Manchester airport siege to try to fend off eviction .... **Page 8**

By-election row

Labour was accused of throwing away victory in the Uxbridge by-election because of its choice of candidate .... **Page 10**

Test marriages

Couples who want to marry should have a formal church blessing allowing them to live together first, said an Anglican theologian .... **Page 11**

Israel arrests

Israel has tightened security after arresting more than 50 suspected Islamic extremists .... **Page 12**

Quota shock

As a ban on admissions quotas for minorities goes into effect, none of the 196 black applicants for places at a Californian medical school has been accepted .... **Page 13**

Duke gives up the helm at Cowes

■ The Duke of Edinburgh is to bring 50 years of royal sailing tradition to an end by settling for a non-competitive role at Cowes Regatta. The Duke will watch proceedings from the deck of John Paul Getty's private yacht instead of taking his usual place at the helm of Yeoman XXVIII .... **Page 1**

NATURE NOTES
Seasonal Game
Brooding Grouse
(Grumpus deputis)
Frequently jumps in the air in a display of ritualised aggression if ignored. Numerous sightings once the Blair bird has flown in August.
NB Do not truss this creature a single inch
Red wattles
Other people's business
Constant Snipe
(Ministerio withoutportfolio)
Always poking its long bill into things.
2 viii 97
Peter Brookes

OPINION

End-of-term: *If the Prime* Minister wants to ride out the *years with confidence, he* should cultivate the robustness of Margaret Thatcher and avoid the prickliness of *her successor*........ **Page 19**

Brides' Lib: The Church of *England could revive some* other traditions. But *reversion to betrothal and bride* price would be a step back*wards down the aisle* **Page 19**

LETTERS

Lord Simon: Belgian okapi; gentlemen's clubs; pensions and fairness .... Page 19

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: *The Ellsworth Kelly retrospective is the Tate Gallery's summer* spectacular, joined this week *by a large Mondrian show.* Both Mondrian and Kelly *disappear behind the veil of* abstraction .... **Page 18**

Paul Barker: *Religion is a* sleeping dogma the British *prefer to let doze undis*turbed. But every so often it *bites back* .... **Page 18**

OBITUARIES

Svyatoslav Richter, pianist; **Moleleki Mokama**, Botswana minister .... **Page 21**

BUSINESS

Lloyds TSB: *Shares soared* 60½p to 736p after the group *revealed record half-year re*sults and lifted its dividend *by 26 per cent* .... **Page 23**

Virgin: Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways is planning to offer travellers double beds in private rooms, pubs, showers and exercise facilities on its new generation of Airbus planes **Page 23**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 8.2 to 4899.3. Sterling rose from 104.6 to 105.3 after a fall from \$1.6373 to \$1.6367 but a rise from DM3.0067 to DM3.0385........ **Page 26**

SPORT

Athletics: *British competitors* at the world championships *will seek to cast off failures at* the Olympics........ **Page 44**

Cricket: Philip North's return for Glamorgan after eight *years was scuppered when he* overslept........ **Page 44**

Football: Chelsea face Manchester United in the Charity Shield. The time for friendlies is over .... **Page 44**

Golf: Colin Montgomerie and José María Olazábal struggled to beat par in the Scandinavian Masters and Ian Woosnam missed the cut .... **Page 43**

ARTS

Rethink: *Treasures may* force us to re-examine the *Hollywood myth that Brit*ons were savages before *the Romans* .... **Page 17**

Echo: *Last Letters from Stalingrad* brings to theatrical life Germans who surrendered .... **Page 17**

Proms: High expectations were raised by Mark Wigglesworth and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales to a pair of Proms but not all of them were met. Four centuries of music were compressed by the King's Singers **Page 17**

SECTIONS

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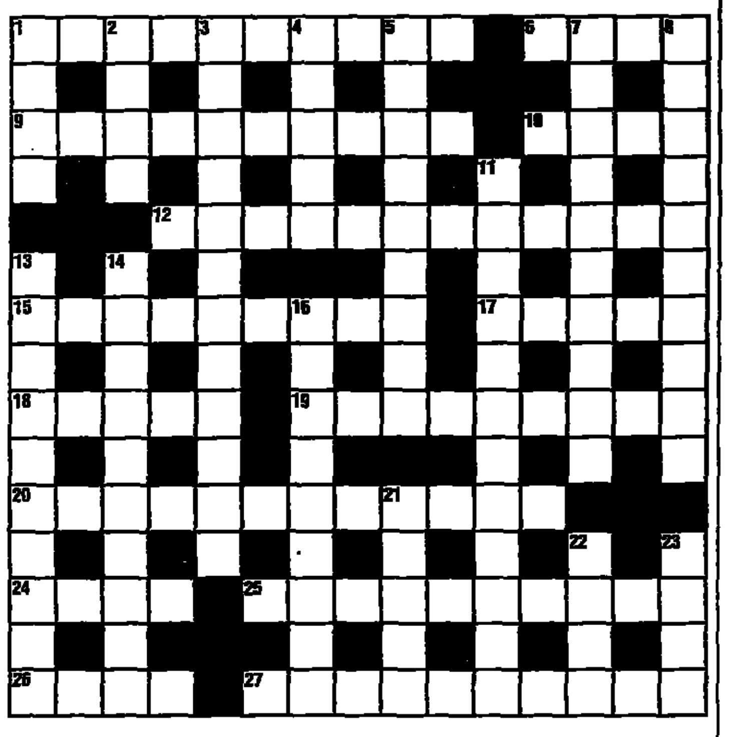
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,548

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



ACROSS
1 British imprisoned by judge — a less severe term impossible to pronounce (10).
6 *Girl no longer valued in India* (4).
9 Lean out to grab regular letter (10).
10 Grows up in odd parts of Algiers (4).
12 Assistance provided for early retirement (8,4).
15 *Clumsy but gentle in a funny way* (9).
17 Fool telling the tale of Macbeth's life? (5).
18 It is not commonly a bad mark (5).
19 Shows faith in contract concern*ing tennis match* (9).
20 In a number of countries, it's non-U to have money (12).
24 Sway about, having strong drink (4).
25 Indeterminate position of the Tweed, say (10).
26 Flier, *not one of Peter Pan's band* (4).
27 Very dignified, say — is placed at head of table (10).

DOWN
1 Baby boomer (4).
2 Part of candle, just two stumps? (4).
3 Memory about prayer I found acceptable (12).
4 Sailor comes upon fish in brook (5).
5 *Liberated*, but nameless and penniless, and starving (9).
7 One black *nightdress* worn, quite tiny (10).
8 Dogmatic position in Islam, but so transformed (10).
11 Like Farmer George in top-class religious group on river (12).
13 Scrapping writing — one's covered part of jacket (10).
14 Instrument with swing band we *may listen to* (6,4).
16 Use sharp stick to search for plant (9).
21 Congratulation has no place in this examination (5).
22 Victory producing new president (4).
23 Grass — when trodden? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,542

C	H	A	I	S	E	L	O	N	G	U	E			
A		R		T		A		O		N		A		B
S	P	I	R	I	T	U	A	L		D	A	N	T	E
T		S		L		D		O		U		T		C
O	N	E	I	L	L		K	N	E	E	J	E	R	K
F				L				G				L		O
F	R	I	G	I	D		M	E	L	T	D	O	W	N
		N		F		O		R		I		P		
P	A	C	K	E	D	U	P		S	C	R	E	A	M
A		H				A				K				I
P	R	O	S	P	E	R	O		R	E	M	I	S	S
A		A		U		T		A		D		R		L
C	U	T	I	N		E	S	P	I	O	N	A	G	E
Y		E		C		R		S		F		T		A
			C	H	E	S	T	E	R	F	I	E	L	D

Solution to Puzzle No 20,547

S	A	U	D	I	A	R	A	B	I	A		R	A	P
A		H		N		O		O		M		U		E
G	O	L	F	B	A	L	L	S		N	I	N	O	N
		A		U		E		O		E		A		A
C	O	N	F	I	R	M		M	U	S	I	C	A	L
O				L		O				I		R		T
D	E	B	I	T		D	I	R	E	C	T	O	R	Y
E		R				E		O				S		G
B	E	E	R	B	E	L	L	Y		P	E	S	T	O
R		N		A				A		E				A
E	X	T	I	N	C	T		L	Y	R	I	C	A	L
A		W		G		H		M		F		R		
K	N	O	C	K		O	L	I	G	O	P	O	L	Y
E		O		O		L		N		R		W		E
R	O	D		K	L	E	P	T	O	M	A	N	I	A

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *P B Holden, Tewin, Welwyn, Hertfordshire; H Baldwin, Chalford, Stroud, Gloucestershire; G M Sowray, Chiswick, London; P Macnamara, Tonbridge, Kent; E Jewitt, Northampton.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.26 am	8 47 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
7.59 pm	4.40 am

New moon tomorrow

London 8.47 pm to 5.27 am
Bristol 8 56 pm to 5 37 am
Edinburgh 9 18 pm to 5.21 am
Manchester 9 03 pm to 5.28 am
Penzance 9 04 pm to 5 54 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.27 am	8.45 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
8.31 pm	5.40 am

New moon today

London 8 45 pm to 5.29 am
Bristol 8 56 pm to 5.39 am
Edinburgh 9 16 pm to 5 23 am
Manchester 9 01 pm to 5.29 am
Penzance 9 02 pm to 5 55 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02 00	6 7	14.22	6.8
Aberdeen	01 30	4 1	13.57	4 0
Avonmouth	07.30	12.2	19.48	12.5
Belfast	11.27	3 2	23.35	3 5
Cardiff	07 16	11.3	19 34	11 6
Devonport	06.09	5 0	18.26	5 3
Dover	11.22	6 3	23 42	6.3
Dublin (N Wall)	-	-	12 06	3.8
Falmouth	05 40	4 8	17 57	5 1
Greenock	00.30	3.2	13 15	3 1
Harwich	-	-	12 13	3 8
Holyhead	10.48	5 1	22 03	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	06 36	8.2	19 03	8.0
Ilfracombe	06 15	8 4	18 33	8 6
King's Lynn	06 37	6.2	19 08	6 1
Leith	02.51	5.2	15 14	5 2
Liverpool	11 37	8 8	22 57	9 1
Lowestoft	09 45	2 5	22.24	2.3
Margate	00 12	4 3	12.29	4 4
Milford Haven	06 30	6 3	18 49	6 5
Newquay	05.22	6.3	17 41	6 5
Oban	06.16	3 5	18.24	3 6
Penzance	04 52	5 0	17 12	5.2
Portland	07 02	1 6	19 15	1 9
Portsmouth	11 33	4 3	23 49	4.4
Shoreham	11 38	5 7	23 53	5 8
Southampton	11 12	4 3	23.28	4 4
Swansea	06 34	8 7	18 56	9 0
Tees	03 52	5.1	16 15	5.0
Walton-on-N	-	-	12.07	3 9

All times BST Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Southsea, Hampshire, 24C (75F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, and Spadeadam, Cumbria, 0.59in; highest sunshine: Southsea, Hampshire, 9.7hr

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** Dry and warm in most places. Early low cloud, and some mist and fog patches, will clear during the morning to allow plenty of sunshine through the afternoon. However, southwest England and the South Coast will stay rather cloudy, with a few sprinkles of light rain or drizzle in the Channel Islands. Northwest Scotland and Shetland cloudy, with a few light showers.

Mostly dry tonight, but there could be a little rain in northwest Scotland and the Channel Isles. It will turn misty in England and Wales and in many parts this will thicken to fog for a time.

☐ **London, E Anglia, Midlands, S Wales:** Early mist or fog clearing with sunny spells developing. A light wind. Max 24C (75F).

☐ **SE, Cent S England:** Early mist. *Cloudy but sunshine breaking* through. Light winds. Max 22C (72F).

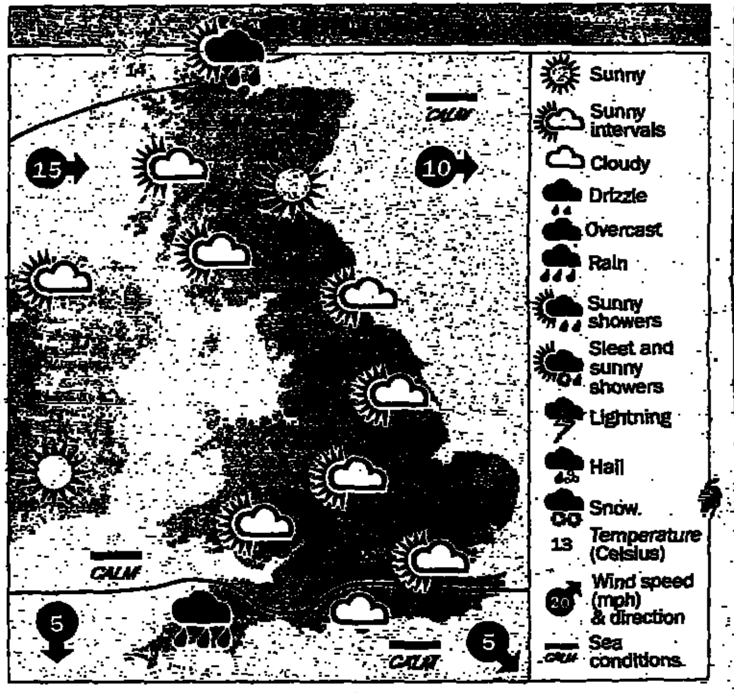
☐ **E, Cent N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** Early mist clearing then long spells of warm sunshine. Light winds. Max 22C (72F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** Dull and misty with spots of rain at times. A light to moderate northerly wind. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lakes, IoM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** Dry with sunny spells. A light west to northwest wind. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** *Sunny spells but the odd* light shower. A moderate southwest wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Outlook:** Mostly dry and fine, but *cloudier in the far north and southern* England.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

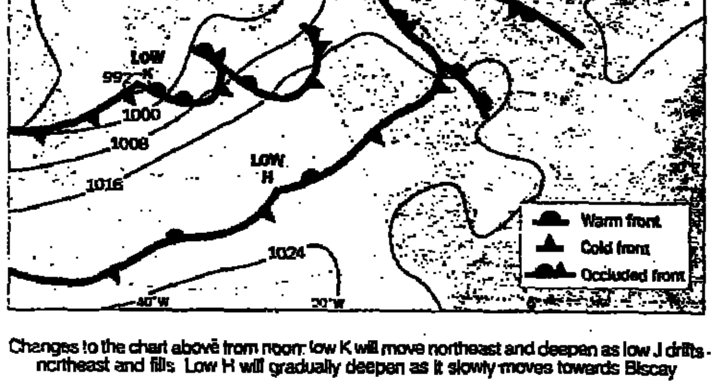
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.5	0.21	23	73	b
Anglesey	0.1	0.11	18	64	d
Aspatria	2.4	0.40	19	66	r
Aviemore	5.6	0.02	22	72	s
Belfast	X	X	X	X	
Birmingham	X	X	X	X	
Bognor R	0.5	-	23	73	c
Bournem'th	*4.1*	*0.01*	*24*	*75*	*b*
Bristol	-	0.01	19	66	c
Buxton	0.1	0.37	17	63	d
Cardiff	0.1	0.14	17	63	r
Clacton	X	0.09	19	66	du
Cleethorpes	X	X	X	X	
Colwyn Bay	1.0	0.13	21	70	c
Cromer	-	0.06	20	68	du
Dunbar	4.8	0.06	21	70	s
Eastbourne	0.2	0.11	20	68	c
Edinburgh	5.3	0.05	21	70	r
Eskdalemuir	2.1	0.21	19	66	r
Exmouth	1.3	0.01	23	73	c
Falmouth	-	-	19	66	du
Fishguard	0.5	0.13	19	66	c
Folkestone	0.4	0.08	20	68	c
Glasgow	1.0	0.09	17	63	r
Guernsey	*4.2*	-	*23*	*73*	*c*
Hastings	0.5	0.17	20	68	c
Hayling I.	1.0	-	23	73	b
Herne Bay	0.3	0.09	22	72	c
Hove	1.8	0.09	21	70	du
Hunstanton	-	0.21	20	68	sh
Isle-of-man	3.6	0.38	20	68	s
Isle-of-wight	*4.5*	*0.01*	*22*	*72*	*b*
Jersey	6.4	-	21	70	b
Kinloss	5.4	0.12	22	72	s
Leeds	3.3	0.09	22	72	b
Lerwick	2.9	0.48	14	57	r
Leuchars	6.4	0.10	23	73	s
Littlehmptn	2.2	0.02	23	73	c
London	1.4	0.30	24	75	b
Lowestoft	-	0.15	20	68	r
Manchester	-	0.32	19	66	r
Margate	X				
Minehead	0.2	0.01	20	68	c
Morecambe	*1.1*	*0.36*	*19*	*66*	*r*
Newcastle	3.5	0.08	21	70	r
Newquay	X	X	X	X	
Norwich	0.2	0.09	20	68	r
Oxford	1.9	0.02	23	73	c
Penzance	X	-	19	66	c
Poole	2.0	-	26	79	c
Prestatyn	X	0.25	21	70	du
Ross-o-wye	3.5	0.01	23	73	b
Salcombe	1.1	-	20	68	c
Saunton Snd	0.9	0.01	18	64	du
Scarboro'	0.8	0.09	21	70	c
Shrewsbury	0.6	0.13	21	70	c
Skegness	-	0.16	22	72	sh
Southend	X				
Southport	-	0.53	18	64	d
Southsea	0.1	0.05	19	66	c
Stornoway	*2.6*	*0.17*	*17*	*63*	*sh*
Swanage	2.5	0.01	23	73	b
Teignmouth	X	X	X	X	
Tenby	-	-	21	70	c
Tiree	3.0	0.10	17	63	sh
Torquay	2.8	-	24	75	b
Tynemouth	X				
West-s-mare	-	-	20	68	c
Weymouth	1.7	-	21	70	c

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	27	81	s
Akrotiri	28	82	s
Alex'dria	29	84	f
Algiers	29	84	f
Amst'dm	17	63	r
Athens	33	91	f
B Aires	X		
Bahrain	*37*	*99*	*s*
Bangkok	31	88	t
Barbados	X		
Barcelona	X		
Beirut	*29*	*84*	*f*
Belgrade	26	79	f
Berlin	19	66	r
Bermuda	31	88	s
Biarritz	23	73	c
Borde'x	27	81	f
Brussels	17	63	f
Budapst	*27*	*81*	*c*
Cairo	31	88	f
Cape Tn	19	66	s
Ch'church	9	48	X
Chicago	27	81	s
Cologne	19	66	c
Corfu	32	90	s
C'phagn	20	68	f
Dublin	16	61	r
Dubrovnik	29	84	s
Faro	29	84	s
Florence	33	91	s
Frankfurt	18	64	t
Funchal	*25*	*77*	*s*
Geneva	25	77	f
Gibraltar	25	77	s
Helsinki	22	72	s
Hong K	*31*	*88*	*f*
Innsbrck	25	77	t
Istanbul	28	82	s
Jeddah	38	100	s
Jo'burg	16	61	f
L Angels	21	70	s
L Palmas	X		
Le Touquet	*15*	*59*	*f*
Lisbon	31	88	s
Locarno	25	77	f
Luxembg	15	59	c
Luxor	38	100	s
Madrid	34	93	s
Majorca	X		
Malaga	X		
Malta	33	91	s
Melb'rne	11	52	f
Mexico C	*21*	*70*	*s*
Miami	31	88	c
Milan	30	86	s
Montreal	28	82	s
Moscow	23	73	f
Munich	17	63	r
N Delhi	29	84	f
N York	*29*	*84*	*s*
Nairobi	X		
Naples	31	88	s
Nice	28	82	s
Oslo	17	63	r
Paris	20	68	f
Peking	30	86	c
Perth	*21*	*70*	*s*
Prague	17	63	f
Reykjavik	13	55	r
Rhodes	28	82	s
Rio de J	26	79	f
Riyadh	43	109	s
Rome	29	84	s
S Fr'isco	18	64	s
S Paulo	X		
Salzburg	27	81	f
Santiago	12	54	f
Seoul	32	90	c
Sing'por	33	91	f
St'kholm	22	72	s
Strasb'rg	20	68	f
Sydney	16	61	s
Tangier	33	91	s
Tel Aviv	*29*	*84*	*f*
Tenerife	30	86	s
Tokyo	29	84	c
Toronto	29	84	s
Tunis	35	95	s
Valencia	31	88	s
Vanc'ver	20	68	f
Venice	28	82	s
Vienna	27	81	s
Warsaw	23	73	f
Wash'ton	X		
Wel'ngton	12	54	X
Zurich	20	68	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low K will move northeast and deepen as low J drifts northeast and fills. Low H will gradually deepen as it slowly moves towards Biscay

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THE TIMES 2

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SPORT
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY
PAGE 25

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY AUGUST 2 1997

Sterling up after Davies talks of rate rise

BY GEORGE SIVELL

HOWARD DAVIES, who stepped down as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England on Thursday, said yesterday that a further "modest" rise in interest rates may be needed. His comments helped to lift the pound three pfennigs to DM3.0385 at the close.

Mr Davies said, however, that an interest rise would not necessarily mean the pound going up. He believes that further rises in sterling will depend instead on the European single currency and the pound's status as a safe haven against the possibility of a weak euro.

He was speaking as figures showed that manufacturing grew for the 14th successive month. The purchasing managers' index, compiled by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, registered 53.4 in July, a slight drop from 53.5 in June.

New export orders, however, fell sharply in July to 47.1, from 51.7 in June, showing the first decline in export demand since the index began in January 1996.

Peter Thomson, for the institute, said: "This is the first month that purchasing managers have reported a significant drop in export orders, which they attribute almost entirely to the strength of sterling. The manufacturing sector remains strong, but the decline in demand from overseas markets is clearly having an effect."

☐ Wall Street fell sharply after the US jobless rate dropped to a 24-year low of 4.8 per cent, raising fears of inflation. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 118.23, at 8,104.38, at midday.

Energy bid referral leaves City stunned

BY PAUL DURMAN

MARGARET BECKETT, the President of the Board of Trade, stunned the City yesterday when she asked the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the £3.65 billion takeover of The Energy Group, the owner of Eastern Electricity.

The move is expected to herald tougher regulation of the electricity groups that have already been taken over, seven of them by US companies.

Mrs Beckett made her decision in spite of advice from the Office of Fair Trading and the electricity regulator that the bid from PacifiCorp, the US group, should be allowed to proceed, subject to various assurances. Mrs Beckett said she was not convinced that such assurances would be sufficient to address her concerns "over whether it will be possible to maintain adequate regulatory control over the merged company".

Eastern Electricity was set to become the eighth regional electricity company to pass into American ownership, but it is the first of the US takeovers to be referred to the MMC. The offer for Energy, which was demerged from Hanson this year, is also the first electricity takeover subject to the scrutiny of the Labour Government.

It is understood that Mrs Beckett wants this opportunity to examine whether Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, can still exercise control over electricity companies when they become part of larger international groups. There is concern that they may be able to disguise the true nature of their financial position so persuading the regulator to accept less onerous price controls.

It is also believed that Mrs Beckett may be worried about the financial structure of PacifiCorp, which initially will have almost £10 billion of debt after the purchase of Energy. The importance of these concerns was highlighted in *The Times* by Dieter Helm, the Oxford University economist and respected commentator on the energy industry.

Derek Bonham was "surprised and disappointed" by Margaret Beckett's decision

Energy's shares fell 27p, to 624p, after the referral of the PacifiCorp bid, which automatically lapses. More than 61 per cent of Energy's shareholders had accepted the 690p a share offer.

Derek Bonham, Energy's chairman, said: "We are surprised and disappointed ... particularly as PacifiCorp indicated its willingness to comply with all assurances required by the UK regulatory authorities." Energy and PacifiCorp both said they would co-operate with the MMC inquiry, which has to report by November 21.

The referral again raised concerns about the clarity of UK competition policy. In June, Mrs Beckett told businessmen that decisions on referrals "will be taken on competition grounds. This will be the primary consideration in merger referrals".

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NatWest insider to run split division

BY ROBERT MILLER

NATWEST Group yesterday revealed that the result of the review of NatWest Markets, its troubled investment banking business, would be to split the business into two and appoint an insider as the new chief executive.

Konrad "Chip" Kruger, a US citizen who is currently co-chief executive of global debt markets, is to take the position vacated when Martin Owen resigned in June. Mr Kruger, 44, joined NatWest after the bank bought Greenwich Capital, the US securities firm, last October.

Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest Group, who took over the reins after Mr Owen's departure, will become chairman of NWM. The business was rocked by the discovery of a net £77 million black hole in the interest options book back in March.

Under the new look, NWM Global Financial Markets will become a new sector within the banking group, under the charge of Stefan Harris and will concentrate on Treasury, foreign exchange, interest rate trading, money markets and currency options. The rest of NWM will focus on investment banking activities, which include global equities, debt markets and international advisory work.

Under the reorganisation, NatWest will cut the capital allocated to NWM by as much as a third.

Mr Wanless said that a firm of headhunters had been appointed to assist in the search for a new NWM chief executive but added that Mr Kruger was the best candidate.

Simon Robertson, the former Kleinwort Benson chief now headed for Goldman Sachs, and Sir Andrew Large, who retired on Thursday as chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, were rumoured to have been candidates.

WEEKEND
MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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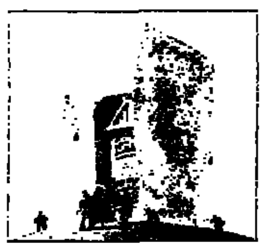
Marianne Curphey on a solution for gazumping



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Buy currency in advance while sterling is strong

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	4899.3	(-8.2)
Yield	3.32%	
FTSE All share	2291.97	(-3.21)
Nikkei	19804.38	(-527.05)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8104.38	(-118.23)*
S&P Composite	939.25	(-15.04)*
US RATES		
Federal Funds	5 3/4%*	(6%)
Long Bond	102 21/32*	(104 11/32)
Yield	6.42%*	(6.30%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	7 1/16%	(7 1/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	114 25/32	(115 7/16)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6353*	(1.6404)
London:		
$	1.6370	(1.6375)
DM	3.0384	(3.0077)
FFr	10.2460	(10.1400)
SFr	2.4890	(2.4761)
Yen	193.25	(193.88)
£ Index	105.3	(104.6)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.8625*	(1.8380)
FFr	6.2785*	(6.1980)
SFr	1.5250*	(1.5120)
Yen	118.40*	(118.65)
$ Index	106.0	(105.8)
Tokyo close Yen 118.00		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	$18.90	($18.95)
GOLD		
London close	$324.05	($325.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Unilever cash

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods giant, is hunting hard for targets for its cash pile. Page 24

Acquisition hopes and profits lift Lloyds TSB

BY ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Lloyds TSB soared after the banking group revealed record half-year results and lifted its dividend by 26 per cent.

The share price rose 60½p to close at 736p as the market warmed to the possibility of further acquisitions by Lloyds TSB, funded by a war chest of nearly £1 billion. The favoured targets are likely to be a life insurer, a building society or the mortgage book of another bank.

Sir Brian Pitman, chairman of Lloyds TSB, said: "There are certainly some possibilities but they would have to be fairly sizeable." However, he ruled out any return to the investment banking business, which Lloyds TSB closed nearly a decade ago.

Pitman: "possibilities"

The group saw pre-tax profits rise by 33 per cent to £1.5 billion in the six months to June 30, excluding a £58 million writedown of finance leases. The 26 per cent rise in the interim dividend, payable on October 10, to 5.3p was helped by a huge jump of 49 per cent in earnings per share to 20.4p.

Total income rose by 7 per cent to £3.6 billion. The group set aside an additional £50 million provision arising from the pensions mis-selling scandal. This brings the total compensation pot for Lloyds TSB group, including Lloyds Abbey Life, to £250 million.

Of the main Lloyds TSB businesses, retail banking contributed pre-tax profits of £441 million against £307 million last time. Mortgages, now sold exclusively under the Cheltenham & Gloucester banner, were up £45 million at £293 million and net new lending grew by 29 per cent to £1.8 billion.

Insurance profits were down £11 million at £228 million partly as a result of the acquisition of the minority shareholdings in Lloyds Abbey Life in December 1996 as well as the additional compensation for pensions mis-selling.

On the international side of Lloyds TSB, which encompasses operations in Latin America, New Zealand and continental Europe, pre-tax profits rose by £20 million to £185 million with the emerging markets debt division contributing £84 million.

Tempus, page 26

Tube users to be billed at home

BY JASON NISSÉ

TUBE and bus travellers in London will be able to load up "smartcard" tickets with cash before their journeys or be billed at home for their fares under a new £1 billion ticketing scheme to be installed by London Transport.

A deal in principle has been agreed with TranSys, a consortium led by ICL and EDS, which will invest £180 million to install the new smartcard system in exchange for a 17-year contract worth up to £1 billion. A final contract is due to be signed in October and the system should be operating by the end of 2000.

Iain Coucher, managing director of TranSys, says the system, using plastic cards with silicon chips, will be among the most advanced in the world, cutting fraud and relieving travellers of the need to either buy season tickets in advance or carry change for ticket machines.

TranSys hopes to extend the system to taxi fares.

Virgin to launch hotels in the sky

BY JON ASHWORTH

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Atlantic Airways is planning to offer travellers double beds in private rooms, pubs, showers and exercise facilities on its new generation of Airbus A340s, which it has ordered in a £1.6 billion expansion.

The aircraft, quieter and larger than Virgin's existing A340s and powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 500 engines, will go into service in 2002 on routes to the West Coast of America and the Far East. They will carry up to 375 passengers each, competing with the Boeing 777 in range and capacity.

Virgin has ordered 16 of the new A340-600s and two additional A340-300s in an order worth £1.6 billion. It will be the first airline to take delivery of the enlarged aircraft, which made their debut at the Le Bourget airshow in June.

Attacking the planned link between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, Mr Branson said: "We are proud to become the launch customer for this predominantly British-made widebodied aircraft, which will carry the Union Jack around the globe. Boeing make excellent aircraft, but it is in the interest of both the aircraft industry and the consumer for them to have a strong competitor."

Mr Branson added: "It is healthy to see a European manufacturer and a British engine maker giving their American counterparts a serious run for their money."

The orders will virtually double the size of the Virgin fleet.

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Arjo says pound has hit sales

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper producer, yesterday blamed the strong pound for an 11.6 per cent slump in its sales, from £1.86 billion to £1.64 billion, in the six months to June 30.

The company, which employs 18,000 people and has operations in North America and Europe, said that if exchange rates had been constant, second-quarter turnover would have risen.

A spokesman said: "There has been an increase in the volume growth of sales although average prices are lower.

The latest bad figures fuelled speculation that the company is about to merge with a rival. Although Arjo emphasises the negative effect of sterling's strength, it admits that pulp — bought in dollars or ecus — is significantly cheaper than last year.

BPP ahead

Britain's rapidly growing economy has led to a surge in people taking part-time private training courses to become white-collar professionals, says BPP, the training and publishing group. BPP saw a 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits before exceptionals, to £5.5 million, in the half year to June 30. Turnover grew by almost 8 per cent, to £38.1 million, with earnings per share before exceptionals up 24 per cent to 13p. A 5p interim dividend, up from 4p, is due on October 10.

Raffles buys

Raffles Holdings, owner of Raffles Hotel in Singapore and Brown's Hotel in London, has paid £26.5 million for the landmark Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten in Hamburg. The 160-bedroom hotel was sold by Japan's Aoki Corporation through JLW Hotels and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Beauty plan

Japan's largest beauty products company, Shiseido, is to expand overseas aggressively, aiming to be one of the top three cosmetics firms by 2005. L'Oreal, Procter & Gamble and Unilever are the current top three. Shiseido is fourth.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Civil war at NatWest

❛NatWest has made it clear it intends reducing the amount of capital it devotes to investment banking, and the scramble for resources was fierce. "There were more begging bowls at 135 Bishopsgate than there are in the Strand," said one NatWest insider . . .❜

Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Share split unveiled but plans for cash pile still a mystery

Unilever price at five-year high

By Sarah Cunningham

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods group, failed to offer further clues yesterday on how it will spend its £2.8 billion cash pile, as it unveiled higher than expected first-half profits and plans for a four-for-one share split.

The funds have been built up since it raised a net £2.58 billion from the sale last month of its speciality chemicals business to ICI. A spokesman said that Morris Tabaksblat and Niall Fitzgerald, the co-chairmen, had given themselves two years to decide how to invest the funds. "It is not Unilever's way to rush into anything," he said.

The group said the strength of sterling has knocked £50 million off net profits as reported at constant exchange rates in the first half, and is likely to knock off £70 million over the full year.

Pre-tax profit in the second quarter, excluding the speciality chemicals sale, rose 37 per cent, to £836 million. For the first half, pre-tax profit was 24 per cent ahead at £1.37 billion. The shares closed at a five-year high of £18.21½, up 52½p. The group announced yesterday that the London and Amsterdam-listed shares are to be split four ways on October 13, if the move is approved by extraordinary meetings on September 22. It last carried out a share split in 1987. The move aims to improve liquidity and tradeability of the shares, which were below £13 a year ago.

The profit growth came from improvements in margins from cost-cutting and portfolio pruning, particularly in Europe, rather than increased sales. Group margins rose from 8.8 to 10 per cent.

Sales were ahead in North America, India and South East Asia. Central and Eastern European sales were strong but other European countries felt the impact of sales of non-core companies. Poor weather in June pushed ice cream sales lower. For the half year, at constant rates of exchange, sales were ahead by 3 per cent to £16.8 billion. In the second quarter, sales were up 1 per cent, to £8.83 billion.

Mr Fitzgerald is not expecting overall economic conditions to change materially in the second half. "Sales growth is likely to remain modest, in part due to continuing portfolio rationalisation. Although profits growth in the remainder of the year will be less buoyant, profit improvement for the full year should be satisfactory," he said.

The interim dividend will be announced with the third-quarter results in November. Earnings were boosted by the disposal profits and rose 310 per cent, to 150.19p a share.

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Electronic exchange reveals £6m loss

By Gavin Lumsden

TRADEPOINT, the electronic share exchange saved from bankruptcy by venture capitalists this week, has revealed the scale of its capital haemorrhage.

The order-driven trading system lost £6.09 million in its second year of operation, up from £5.07 million. Losses continued to rise in the three months to July at £1.64 million, up from £1.42 million for the same period last year. A total loss of £18.23 million is being carried forward.

Set up to rival the London Stock Exchange in September 1995, Tradepoint remains minuscule in comparison. Last month, its best since launch, it handled £30.8 million of trades, alongside £221 billion for the Stock Exchange. It needs £50 million a day to break even but is used by only 64 institutional investors, 16 more than it had a year ago.

Michael Waller-Bridge, the chief executive who steps down in October as part of the £11.4 million refinancing led by Apax Partners and Electra Fleming, is confident the company will start making a profit by the end of the year.

As part of the deal, three of the four leading inter broker dealers in the City, who invested a total of £2.5 million, have signed with Tradepoint. Stanislas Yassukovich, former deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange and chairman of Easdaq, is to join the board.

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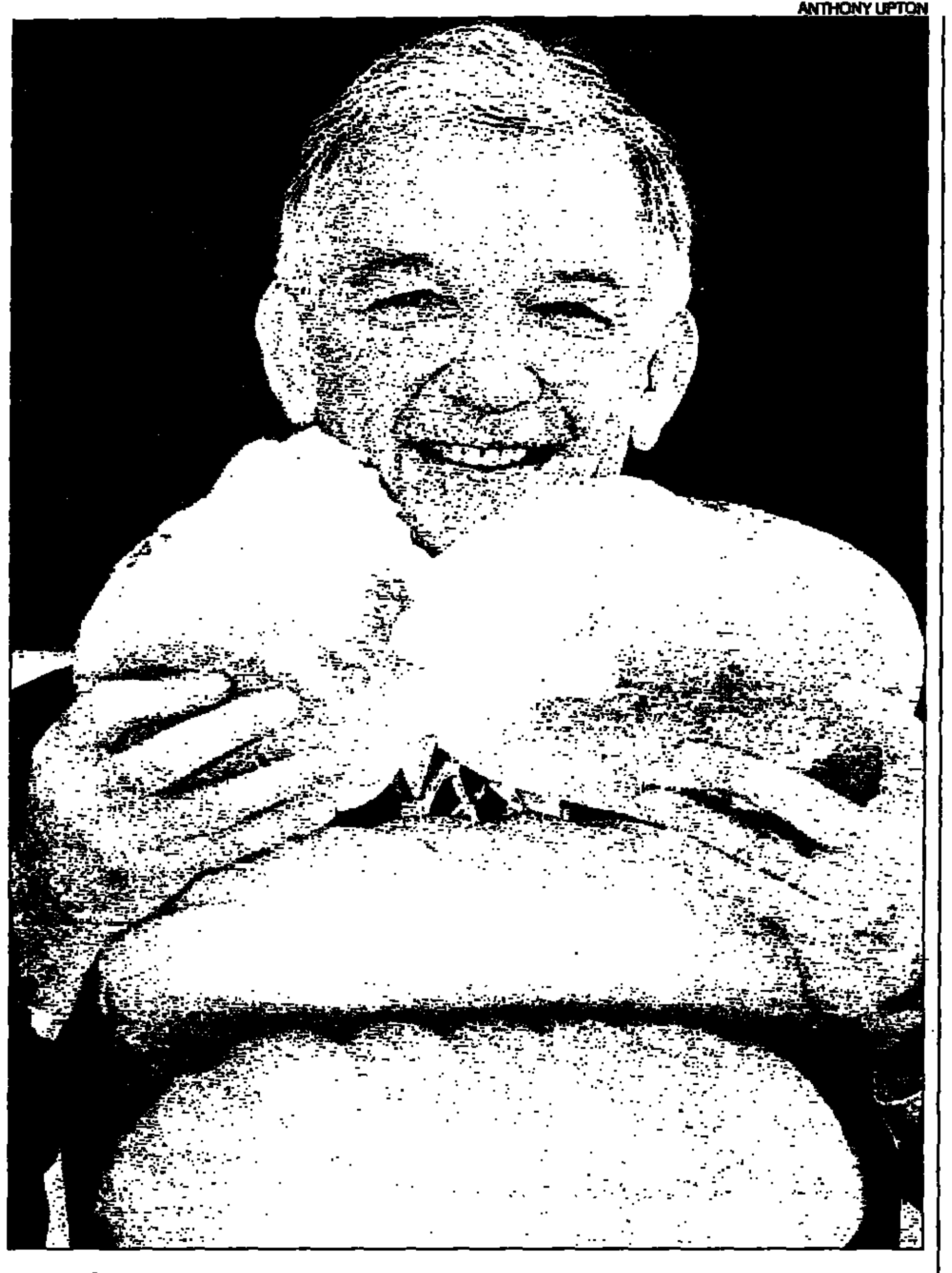

ANTHONY UPTON

Rising fast: Mike Darrington, managing director of Greggs, the bakers, celebrates a 24 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to a record £5.3 million for the half year to June 14. The shares rose 87½p to £18.62½ as the interim dividend advanced 22 per cent, to 11p a share, out of earnings up 30 per cent, to 32.7p. The group holds net cash of £12.6 million. Meanwhile, a record £26 million capital spending programme is under way at Greggs.

Blot on Bic takeover hopes

By Clare Stewart

MARRIAGE plans between Bic ballpoints and Sheaffer fountain pens may have to be rewritten even before the ink is dry on the page.

Two top executives of the American Sheaffer group look certain to launch a management buyout to try to block the advances of the French-listed Société Bic.

Owen Jones, Sheaffer's chief executive, and Shane Dolohanty, chief financial officer, are considering whether to exercise their right of refusal to buy the company. Martin Bolland, a partner in Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group, which has promised to support a buyout, said: "We are still studying the Bic offer, but there is a high probability that this right will be exercised."

A firm decision on any management buyout would be made over the next few weeks Mr Bolland said. Alchemy Partners is headed by Jon Moulton, who was involved in the Parker Pen buyout in 1985.

Bic is believed to be offering a price that is below the Sheaffer group's annual sales of $50 million (£30 million). Since 1987, the loss-making Sheaffer has been owned by Gefinor, a merchant bank listed in Luxembourg.

The action by Bic, best known for its low-cost pens and disposable razors and lighters, is seen as a move into more upmarket areas. It follows recent acquisitions such as those of the Hauser pens and Tipp-Ex correcting fluid businesses.

Sheaffer, which is based in Iowa, has 550 employees worldwide and was founded in 1913 by Walter A. Sheaffer, inventor of "the first practical self-filling fountain pen".

The group's products, which include fountain pens, rollerballs and pencils, retail for between £4.95 and £320 and are stocked by a wide range of retailers, including Harrods, Selfridges, W H Smith and Rymans.

Société Bic reported 1996 sales of $1.2 billion, and, as well as its French base, has operations in north and central America.

Minister sets terms for Bupa takeover

By Clare Stewart

BUPA, the private health insurer and hospital group, will have to sell a stake in the AIM-quoted Independent British Healthcare if its takeover of Goldsborough Healthcare is to go ahead.

Nigel Griffiths, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, yesterday announced that the £77 million deal would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless Bupa met certain undertakings.

Bupa's acquisition of Goldsborough includes control of nearly 21 per cent of Independent British Healthcare, an operator with 11 private hospitals. The deal, Mr Griffiths said, "gives rise to competition concerns in relation to the market for private hospital beds". These concerns "might be addressed" if Bupa undertook to sell the stake in IBH.

Bupa said it would be working with the Director-General of Fair Trading and the DTI to meet the requirements "as soon as possible".

Bupa's 175p cash offer for Goldsborough has now received acceptances in respect of 96.9 per cent of the shares. The merger will mean the combined group will have 35 hospitals and 76 nursing homes. Concern over the deal has been raised because of Bupa's enlarged share of the healthcare market and over its influence as both a healthcare provider and customer through its insurance arm.

The OFT has extended its consultancy period on the bid until August 22. Paul Saper, an analyst at Laing & Buisson, said this would give smaller operators in the market opposed to the merger time to voice their views.

Goldsborough shares closed down ½p at 170½p, and IBH up 8p at 82½p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Retail boost signals windfall spending

JOHN LEWIS provided further evidence of a consumer boom yesterday as it ended its half year on a high note, with sales on the rise at both its department stores and at its Waitrose supermarket chain. The department stores reported that big ticket items, such as furnishings and electrical appliances, were selling best in late July. This supports what Dixons, the electrical retailer, and Allied Carpets have been saying about customers dipping into windfall payments.

In the 26 weeks to July 26, sales at department stores were up 10.7 per cent. In the final week of the half year they were up 13.6 per cent. In the same period at Waitrose, sales were up 4.7 per cent, with a 5.9 per cent rise in the final week. Total group sales increased 7.3 per cent in the first half, with 9.6 per cent seen in the last week.

Premier in the red

PREMIER, the healthcare group whose shares remain suspended at 15p, yesterday announced that it had incurred full year pre-tax losses of £1.124 million, against a profit of £1.1 million for the year to December. The loss per share reached 14.7p, against earnings of 15.1p last time. Again, there is no dividend. Premier says that if shareholders vote to approve the planned disposal of its US business it will not need to turn to alternative sources of finance. However, such a course of action will be needed in the event of there being no approval.

Hansom disposal

HANSOM'S Richmond Road Cab Centre subsidiary is to sell its taxi meter rental business, which trades as Taxitronic, to Interfacom, the Barcelona-based supplier of its taxi meters. The price is £230,000, payable over five years, which will be used for working capital. Richmond Road Cabs has agreed with Interfacom for its wholly owned subsidiary, Taxitronic, to sublet part of its premises at Richmond Road, Hackney, where it will continue the business of renting taxi meters. In the year to March 31, Taxitronic made pre-tax profit of £20,570.

BPB's sterling warning

BPB, the building materials group, said that an improvement in profitability during the year to date had been offset by the impact of sterling's strength on overseas earnings, which may hit full-year profits by just under £20 million. The warning left the shares 6½p lower at 329p. Alan Turner, the chairman, told the annual meeting that strong volume growth in sales of plasterboard products achieved last year continued into the first quarter, with building plaster demand also higher in many countries.

Kellogg beats estimates

KELLOGG said that its net income more than doubled in the second quarter, sailing past Wall Street estimates and driving up the cereal giant's shares. Kellogg said gains in its share of the US cereal market helped to push earnings to $163.6 million (£100.4 million), or 79 cents a share, in the quarter. The returns easily outpaced profits of $78.1 million in the same period last year, when a price war hit Kellogg's bottom line. The shares surged 437 cents to $96.25.

Landround's £3.6m tag

LANDROUND, a provider of travel-based promotions, is seeking an Alternative Investment Market listing through a placing of 625,000 ordinary shares of 5p each, at 80p a share, raising £365,000. The placing capitalises Landround at £3.6 million. First dealings in the shares are expected on August 13. The issue's broker is W H Ireland. Landround provides promotions for clients such as Adidas and Dixons. It reported pre-tax profits of £362,000 in the year to September 30, 1996.

Paramount bid threat

THE bidder for Paramount Foods threatened yesterday to call off its efforts unless the food producer provides what is described as "appropriate information" to determine whether an acceptable offer could be made. Harry, Ian and Lester Kent, the founders, former directors and current 17.3 per cent shareholders of Paramount, confirmed that they made the anonymous approach on May 12 but since that date had still not been put in a position to formulate an offer.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.32	2.14	Malta	0.687	0.628
Austria Sch ..	22.36	20.70	Netherlds Gld	3.606	3.313
Belgium Fr ...	65.83	60.87	New Zeal'd $	2.70	2.46
Canada $	2.383	2.195	Norway Kr	13.15	12.21
Cyprus Cyp£	0.932	0.861	Portugal Esc	319.53	297.50
Denmark Kr ..	12.15	11.26	S Africa Rd ...	8.30	7.34
Finland Mkk	9.60	8.85	Spain Pta	267.29	248.50
France Fr	10.69	9.91	Sweden Kr ...	13.97	12.87
Germany Dm	3.20	2.96	Switz'land Fr	2.64	2.42
Greece Dr	*499*	*460*	*Turkey Lira ...*	*272169*	*252291*
Hong Kong $	13.46	12.26	USA $	1.742	1.599
Iceland	127	107			
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.09			
Israel Shk ...	6.10	5.45			
Italy Lira	3133	2901			
Japan Yen ...	208.43	190.90			

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

WATERFALL HOLDINGS PLC
("Waterfall")

Beeson Gregory Limited, nominated adviser, financial adviser and joint broker to Waterfall announced on 15 July 1997 on behalf of Waterfall that the recent rights issue which it had underwritten, had become unconditional in all respects and that applications had been made by shareholders for some 3.33m shares being 43% of the shares available for subscription. The rights issue was of 7,735,768 shares.

Included within the rights issue were 1,839,634 shares which Beeson Gregory Limited had placed firm on behalf of a substantial shareholder. Owing to an administrative error, this figure of 1,839,634 shares was inadvertently omitted from the announcement of shares taken up under the rights issue.

Consequently, the total percentage of the rights issue taken up was some 67.2 per cent of the issue (5.2m shares) and not 43 per cent as earlier announced. This administrative error was not caused by Waterfall or its directors. As a result of this error there was an over allocation of shares to sub-underwriters, but the position with sub-underwriters has now largely been resolved by Beeson Gregory.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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هكذا من الأصل

A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN HENDRICKS

A hometown boy with global vision

Eric Reguly meets a media mogul poised to conquer the world in partnership with the BBC

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

THE American who is quietly transforming the BBC into a commercial operator on a global scale looks like an insurance salesman from the Mid West.

John Hendricks, the founder, chairman and chief executive of Discovery Communications, the documentary maker that has formed an international programming joint venture with the BBC, is short, sturdy and sports a wardrobe that positively shouts suburban shopping mall: stiff white shirt, a tie decorated with First World War aeroplanes and an expensive but otherwise ordinary jacket. He is friendly, laid-back and straightforward.

The whole effect is unsettling and raises suspicions. Here is a man who parlayed $17,000 (£10,429) of his own money into a media company with an estimated worth of $3.8 billion in little more than a decade. Now Discovery is investing more than $500 million to make the BBC a household name around the world. A slick media shark is what you would expect; what you get instead is a hometown boy with whom you would gladly share a beer. "He is not your typical media type from Central Casting," says Adam Singer, chairman of Flextech, Britain's second-largest supplier of cable and satellite programming.

Discovery, based in Maryland, was launched in 1985 and has since become the world's largest producer of non-fiction programming, with every topic imaginable, including adventure, science, technology, medicine, nature, history and exploration. Its library includes documentaries on meerkats, "the most social of animals", mythical monsters from the Loch Ness monster to werewolves, forensic scientists, UFOs, classic racing cars, the Battle of the Bulge, air warfare, the pyschology of fear, the development of women's bathing suits, killer jellyfish and sharks and dinosaurs galore.

Discovery is the only TV network devoted exclusively to documentaries and when it was launched in 1985 with *Iceberg Alley* it was considered somewhat daffy and probably doomed. Documentaries implied learning, not recreation. You were forced to watch them at school and happily ignored them at home, with the possible exception of Jacques Cousteau's *Undersea World*. Singer says: "John's vision was the creation of channels that were purely documentaries — no sports, movies or news. Back then, and it wasn't too long ago, that was a pretty radical concept."

Hendricks fits the part. He loves science and nature and anything mechanical. He is taking flying lessons, not so that he can get to meetings faster, but because he is fascinated by flying. If he bought a plane it would be a bouncy little Cessna, not an intercontinental Gulfstream V, which he could easily afford.

He is 45 and his hobbies seem suited to those of a young boy before he discovers girls. His favourite pastime at the moment is fossil collecting and he has three sabre-tooth tiger skulls, one of which is 36 million years old. "It is absolutely amazing to touch something that old," he says.

Hendricks is a self-made man. He was born the son of a house builder in a coal mining town in West Virginia, a perennial hard-luck state. "Our fortunes were tied to the housing market; we lived from house to house," he says.

When Hendricks was a kid, the family moved to Huntsville. Nasa had chosen the Alabama city to build the Saturn moon rockets and the housing market was booming. So was Hendricks's imagination. "Huntsville was to play an important role in getting the first man on the moon," he says. "I always had an interest in space and aviation. I built a telescope when I was 12 years old."

At the University of Alabama, he read history, science and astronomy. Although he went on to become the school's director of community and government services, the seeds of his documentary business had already been planted. Hendricks noted that every time he wanted to see a documentary, he had to scour the university's decrepit library of 16mm films and set up a projector. "At the time, I thought 'why is this stuff not available on TV?'"

He suggested the idea to a local broadcaster, who dismissed it as fanciful, and to a cable company, which explained that under the current legislation cable companies could be distributors or content providers but not both.

The market changed radically in the mid-1970s when Time Inc (now Time Warner) challenged the restriction and won. The victory meant that cable companies could acquire and make programmes as well as broadcast them. Dozens of cable-exclusive channels were launched, including Home Box Office and Ted Turner's CNN.

> 'John's vision was the creation of channels that were purely documentaries. Back then that was a pretty radical concept'

In 1982, fearing that one of the big players would soon snatch his documentaries-for-the-masses idea, Hendricks started a company called the Cable Education Network. It had no product, no viewers and no money. He figured he needed $25 million to start the service and began to recruit investors.

Tele-Communications Inc, America's biggest cable group, provided its financial might and bought a 49 per cent stake in Hendricks's tiny company. Cox Cable Communications and Newhouse Broadcasting, part of the company that owns *Vanity Fair* magazine, also stepped on board. Hendricks's equity was diluted to 3 per cent, but he had some of the most powerful names in the industry behind him.

The Cable Education Network name was jettisoned and replaced by the snappier Discovery. It had 152,000 subscribers by the time it finally made it to air in 1985. A year later there were seven million, and two years later there were 32 million. Discovery had become the fastest-growing cable network in history. Hendricks proved that fortunes could be made in the nerd market.

Discovery owed a lot of its early success to public service broadcasters around the world, including the BBC and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp, whose documentaries were bought for a small fraction of their production costs and shown on the Discovery channels. "A lot of our early programming had English, Australian and Canadian accents," Hendricks says. "We needed some American accents."

So in 1988 Discovery began producing its own programmes, including *The Second Russian Revolution*, a six-part series on the fall of Gorbachev. Co-productions with the BBC became one of the driving forces of Discovery's original programming effort.

Having saturated the vast American market in only a few years, Discovery set its sights overseas. In 1989 Discovery Europe appeared. Other channels followed in Latin America, Canada, Africa and Asia. At last count, the company had 110 million subscribers in 145 countries and generated revenues of $662 million in 1996. Merrill Lynch, the Wall Street investment house, has put a $3.8 billion value on the privately held Discovery group.

Discovery has recently diversified into retailing, digital channels focusing on children, interactive media, Web sites and big-screen films. Its first feature movie, *The Leopard Son*, makes its premiere next month.

The BBC will fuel Discovery's next stage of growth. The BBC has impressive production capability and a rich but underexploited library. Hendricks realised some time ago that the BBC also had global ambitions and might attempt to flood the international market with high-quality, non-fiction programming of its own. Three years ago he met Bob Phillis, now the chief executive of BBC Worldwide, Auntie's commercial arm. "We were talking about working together globally to reduce the risks in nature and animal programming, rather than having two competing services."

A year ago, BBC Worldwide announced that it was in discussions to form two joint programming ventures, one with Discovery to cover the American and international market, the other with Flextech, another Tele-Communications Inc affiliate, in the British market. For the BBC, the goal was to generate a robust stream of commercial income to offset the increasingly inadequate licence fee income. BBC Worldwide expects its various joint ventures to contribute more than £200 million a year to the BBC within a decade.

The much smaller Flextech joint venture is ready to go. The parallel Discovery joint venture is still under negotiation, but announced last month that its first two channels will start broadcasting in the autumn. Animal Planet, described as a "fur and features" channel, and the People and Arts Network will appear first in Discovery's Latin American markets and will eventually be broadcast globally.

Together, the BBC and Discovery form the most formidable non-fiction programming machine in the world. "Who can really compete with us?" says Hendricks.

Discovery, with the BBC at its side, will no doubt go on to conquer new worlds. But Hendricks is not obsessed with the business. He is just as happy flying his little plane or admiring his fossil collection with his children.

PETER TRIEVNOR

John Hendricks parlayed $17,000 of his own money into a media company with an estimated worth of $3.8 billion

Fund runner

FOR a man perennially described as publicity shy, it must have been a dreadful week for Nicholas Roditi. First he's in the news because he's appointed his old chums Rupert Pennant-Rea and Derek Netherton to the board of investment trust Plantation & General. The next thing he knows, he's "exposed" as earning £80 million a year, reinforcing his position as Britain's highest-paid man.

Since he had previously struggled along on an estimated £50 million, this is the equivalent of having received a pay rise of about £575,000 *a week*. Roditi runs the £1.8 billion Quantum Quota fund for George Soros. *Financial World*, the New York publication that first drew attention to Roditi, bases its estimates of his earnings on the "smashing 82 per cent" rise in the fund last year, after a 159 per cent rise in 1995.

Netherton, who began working with Roditi at Schroders nearly 30 years ago, says the true figure is probably known only to Roditi and Soros. "I haven't a clue," he adds. "I've never asked him and he's never told me." Whatever, Roditi, who sold his Hampstead home a few months ago for £1.5 million, is not short of a bob or two. Panmure Gordon clearly thinks he can afford the £31.5 million offer he has been forced to make for Plantation & General.

"And their towels are getting smaller too"

At the helm

A SORRY tale reaches me from darkest Dorset. According to well-informed local sources, Cleeves Palmer, one of two brothers who run J C & R H Palmer, a highly successful brewery in Bridport, recently encountered a spot of bother when he took his motor cruiser for a spin off the Dorset coast. Palmer, a self-effacing fellow well known on the local party circuit, was enjoying the air when the engines spluttered to a halt, leaving him bobbing on the waves far from land. Thinking on his feet, Palmer whipped out his mobile phone, and dialled the coastguard. "Could we have your position, sir?", they asked. Palmer replied: "Sales and marketing director."

Badgered

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

NICK DOAK, PR supremo at Lloyd's of London, whizzed off on holiday this week, taking with him a nifty badge, styled on the Lloyd's logo, with the inscription: "Lliars of London." Is this the new face of Lloyd's? Has Doak come clean? Not a bit of it. The badge, it emerges, is the work of Sally Noel, the former 60s model-turned-Lloyd's campaigner, who sent out dozens of them with the compliments of "The Angry Ladies of Lloyd's". One even found its way to Philip Holden, who has the task of bankrupting thousands of non-paying names. He has issued over 1,400 writs and obtained 223 judgments so far and will be interested in the inscription on the back which says the badges were assembled by the homeless.

● *STILL at Lime Street, the latest Lloyd's disciplinary notices detail the shocking case of John Lee Summerfield, a former deputy claims manager with a Lloyd's syndicate specialising in motor insurance. Summerfield's duties included dealing with stolen and recovered vehicles. Cutting a long story short, Summerfield "diverted" a couple of cars on which claims had been paid, kept one for himself, and registered the other in the name of his wife. Someone found out, Summerfield lost his job, and Lloyd's has imposed a formal censure, plus costs of £2,000.*

Buoy zone

ACHING limbs across the City this week, as venture capitalists, television executives, insolvency practitioners and other luminaries recover from that great annual summer bash, the Biddle & Co waterski day, held at Thorpe Park in Surrey.

Martin Winter, senior partner of the Gresham Street law firm, excelled yet again by inviting almost as many children as adults — 38 potential litigants in all.

While the urbane Roger Fink, a Biddle partner, carved up the waters at Paul Seaton's ski school, the star turn belonged to five-year-old Amelia Winter, who followed her father's example by skiing a round or two, sending the resident ducks scattering. Winter and his wife, Hilary, a partner in Gouldens, another firm of solicitors, spend most of their weekends at Thorpe Ski, and regularly compete in the national championships. Amelia, meanwhile, is clearly destined for greater things. "When can I go round the buoys?" she was heard to proclaim — to which a nervous Winter added to all in earshot: "She means slalom buoys, not boys." Lawyers for you.

JON ASHWORTH

Martin Winter organised the Thorpe Park event

Lloyds TSB Group results for the first half of 1997

"Lloyds TSB Group is pleased to report another strong set of results. Profit attributable to shareholders rose by 57 per cent; earnings per share were up by 49 per cent; and the interim dividend was increased by 26 per cent.

We are well placed to continue to deliver superior returns to shareholders."

Sir Brian Pitman, *Chairman*

	Half-year to 30 June 1997 (unaudited) £m	Half-year to 30 June 1996 £m	Half-year to 31 December 1996 £m
Profit before tax and write-down of finance leases	1,504	1,130	1,375
Write-down of finance leases	(58)	–	–
Profit before tax	1,446	1,130	1,375
Tax	356	372	414
Profit after tax	1,090	758	961
Minority interests	5	68	76
Profit attributable to shareholders	1,085	690	885
Dividends	283	214	478
Earnings per share	20.4p	13.7p	17.5p
Dividends per share	5.3p	4.2p	9.0p

Financial information for the year ended 31 December 1996 is based on the statutory accounts for 1996 which have been delivered to the registrar of companies. The auditors' report on these accounts was unqualified and did not include a statement under sections 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

The interim dividend of 5.3p per share will be paid on 10 October 1997 to shareholders registered on 15 August 1997. Shareholders who have completed a mandate under the share dividend scheme will receive new shares instead of the cash dividend.

Copies of the news release containing full details of the results may be obtained from Investor Relations, Lloyds TSB Group plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS (telephone: 0171 356 1273).

TSB

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Banking sector keeps market on an even keel

'Chip' Kruger has taken the helm at NatWest Markets

ANOTHER strong performance by the banking sector kept the London equity market on an even keel in the face of a hefty sell-off on *Wall Street*.

Investors on both sides of the Atlantic had coped with *the slightly* stronger than expected rise in the US non-farm payroll numbers. But it was the sharp rise in the July US National Association of Purchasing Managers' index that finally had them on the run.

A sell-off among *US Treasury* bonds prompted a fall of more than 100 points in the Dow Jones industrial average at one stage. By contrast, the FTSE 100 index, having staged a 50-point turnround in the space of just 45 minutes, eventually limited the fall to just 8.2 points at 4,899.3 by the close. *Bank shares* closed below their best of the day but were still sporting useful gains. But it reduced the rise on the week to 47.8 points. Trading was thin with 815 million shares changing hands.

Brokers said investors were reluctant to open fresh posit*ions* ahead of next week's meeting of the Bank of England monetary policy committee, which could lead to another quarter-point rise in base rates.

Half-year figures from ***Lloyds TSB*** were given a warm reception, with the 26 per cent increase in the divi*dend setting the pace for the* other banks still to report. The shares, which were rewarded with a leap of 60½p to 736p, were the best performing among the top 100 companies.

Brokers are now looking to upgrade their year-end forecast of £3.2 billion, and one is even reckoned to be getting *ready to set a target price* for the shares of 940p.

Barclays Bank, reporting next week, rose 8½p to £12.94. Also reporting next week are **Woolwich**, 8½p better at 298p; **Standard Chartered**, down 11½p at 993p; **HSBC**, 12p cheaper at £21.93½; and **NatWest**, 7p easier at 859½p. *NatWest has also appointed* 'Chip' Kruger as chief executive of its NatWest Markets securities division.

Halifax was another firm market, adding 6½p to 743p — for a two-day gain of 35p. Morgan Stanley is said to be considering making it a constituent of its own index which would, in turn, attract the attention of the tracker funds among its clients. Earlier this week Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers were both buying Halifax after telling clients the price had come back too far since its flotation.

The prospect of some big orders for Airbus Industrie put the spark back into **British Aerospace**, which forms part of the consortium that owns Airbus. Its shares rocketed 26p to £13.59½p.

Unilever's half-year figures and subsequent share split were given a warm reception by brokers and the price rose 52½p to £18.21½p.

The Government is to refer PacifiCorp's bid for Energy *Group to the Monopolies and* Mergers Commission. Shares of **Energy Group** declined 27p to 624p.

Bupa's £77 million offer for **Goldsborough Healthcare**, down 1p at 170½p, has also been threatened with referral. Apparently, a potential stumbling block to the deal is Goldsborough's 21 per cent stake in **Independent British Healthcare**, up 8p at 82½p. *The Government wants assur*ances that Bupa's stake in IBH will be sold once it gains control of Goldsborough. The terms from Bupa value Goldsborough at 175p a share.

BPB Industries lost 6½p at 329p after giving warning that the strong pound could wipe £20 million from profits this year — double the amount lost *last year through currency* factors. Outgoing chairman Alan Turner told shareholders at the annual meeting that any improvement in the first quarter had been more than offset by sterling's sharp rise.

Arjo Wiggins Appleton held steady at 163p despite a warning that the strong pound had seen sales slump in the first half by 11.6 per cent to £1.86 *billion. Measured* against constant exchange rates, sales proved to be static.

British Steel fell 3¾p, or 2.26 per cent, to 162p. It is another company heavily dependent on the level at which sterling trades.

There were also setbacks for a number of companies due to report next week. These included **British Airways**, 24p lower at 640p; **Shell**, 11¼p to 439p; **Pearson**, 15p to 666p; **BAA Group**, 11p to 562½p; **BP**, 16p to 818½; and **GKN**, 19½p to £10.52½.

United Utilities slipped 2p to 703½p after ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, cut *it pre-tax profit forecast from* £484 million to £450 million. Andrew Ord at Hoare also reckons net debt will grow from £2.6 billion to £2.9 billion by the turn of the century. Shareholders have already been unsettled by the departure of Brian Staples as chief executive last month. The *company admitted that trad*ing was below market expectations and that the windfall charge was £63 million more than originally envisaged.

Paramount Foods touched 75p before rallying to close just *2p lighter* at 82½p. The group, which used to trade under the name Canadian Pizza, has *found itself on the receiving* end of an approach from Harry, Ian and Lester Kent. But they are now threatening to break off talks unless more detailed information is made known about the company. They were the original founders of Canadian Pizza and still hold 17.3 per cent of *the shares between them.*

☐ **GILT EDGED:** After treading water for much of the day bond prices in London suffered a sharp sell-off in late trading on the back of those weaker US Treasury bonds. Losses stretched to almost £¾ at the longer end.

In the futures pit, the Sep*tember series of the long gilt* tumbled £17/32 to £114 29/32 as the total number of contacts completed reached 98,000. In longs, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished £11/16 down at £110 11/16, while among shorter dated issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks off at £102⅝.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares tumbled after the NAPM and jobs data for July. *At midday, the Dow Jones* industrial average was down 118.23 points at 8,104.38.

While Arjo Wiggins Appleton was telling investors of the *problems a strong pound can cause, Rexam enjoyed a revival*, rising 11½p, to 258½p, having fallen from a peak of 369½p this year. One million shares was dumped on the market at 260p before being snapped up by another institution at 265p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Future Int Tele	80½p	-60½p	Warning of losses
Lloyds TSB	736p	+76½p	Bumper dividend
Dixons	608p	+41½p	Recommended retail price ended
Laura Ashley	52½p	-7p	Another top executive quits
ICI	£10.15	+98½p	American buying
Capital Radio	487½p	-23½p	Virgin bid referred
Logica	760p	+47½p	Acquisition/rights issue
Energy Group	624p	-25½p	PacifiCorp bid referred
Halifax	743p	+22½p	Brokers' recommendation

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	8104.38 (-118.23)
S&P Composite	939.25 (-15.04)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	19804.38 (-527.02)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	16379.22 (-13.51)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	980.74 (-2.59)

Sydney:

AO	2727.50 (-7.60)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4408.79 (-30.14)

Singapore:

Straits	1955.25 (-11.89)

Brussels:

General	14401.56 (-146.27)

Paris:

CAC-40	3049.44 (-26.23)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	Closed

London:

FT 30	3092.2 (-9.4)
FTSE 100	4899.3 (-8.2)
FTSE 250	4488.4 (-3.6)
FTSE 350	2348.5 (-3.5)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2783.12 (+1.83)
FTSE All-Share	2291.97 (-3.21)
FTSE Non Financials	2301.78 (Same)
FTSE Fixed Interest	126.30 (-0.30)
FTSE Govt Secs	97.26 (-0.37)
Bargains	50185
SEAQ Volume	815.0m
US$	1.6367 (+0.0006)
German Mark	3.0385 (+0.0318)
Exchange Index	106.3 (+0.7)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

£:ECU	1.5127
£:SDR	1.1906
RPI	157.5 Jun (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	156.7 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Billiton	223½	+ 1
Bristol & West Prf	107¼	...
Cammell Laird	117½	...
Delcam	269	...
EMI B	115	...
Fairplace Consulting	3¾	...
Galen Holdings	199½	- ½
Gremlin Group	121½	- 9
Helicon Pubsig	107½	- 1
Hitachi Credit (UK)	148½	...
Ionica Group	388	- 4
Kingfisher Leisure	175½	...
Metroline	209	- 5½
Reabourne Merlin	108½	...
SBS Group	105½	...
Ted Baker	140	...
Thorn B	20¼	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Active Imaging n/p	1	...
Brit Borneo n/p	35½	- 4½
Fortune Oil n/p (11)	3	...
Logica n/p (605)	151½	...
Lon Brid Sftw Cv n/p	12½	- 7
Tea Plant n/p (120)	1½	- ½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Pacer Infotech	114½p (+13p)
Lloyds TSB	763p (+60½p)
Dorling Kind	217½p (+10p)
Bulmer (HP)	430p (+15p)
Flying Flw Uts	392½p (+12p)
Woolwich	298p (+8½p)
Allied Domecq	447p (+12½p)

FALLS:

Chemring	133½p (-9p)
Br Aways	540p (-24p)
Reuters	641p (-17p)
Shell	439p (-11½p)
Smith WH	365p (-9p)
Br Land	565p (-12p)
Br Petroleum	818½p (-16p)
BAA	562½p (-11p)
Cable Wirless	602p (11p)
TI	535p (-9½p)
Tate & Lyle	403p (-9p)
JJB Sports	469p (-9½p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Banking on consumers

THE chaps who run Lloyds TSB are gentlemen and if they looked a little smug yesterday, it was due to the 49 per cent rise in the group's half-year earnings. It was surely not glee at the sight of more contortions at rival NatWest, which, for want of a better strategy, has decided to split its investment bank into two.

NatWest's carry-on had the useful effect of highlighting the virtues of Lloyds TSB. While NatWest pontificated about a new focus on *investment banking (why were they not focused before?)*, Lloyds TSB's results only served to remind investors that the less you focus on *investment banking the more money you make*.

Plaudits for Lloyds TSB need to be kept in context, however. Their strategy has been disarmingly simple, based on concentrating their investment in higher-margin mortgage and consumer lending business. Using the Cheltenham & Gloucester brand to effect, they *have gained market share in mortgages* while at the same time improving interest margins, a neat trick that Abbey National notably failed to achieve.

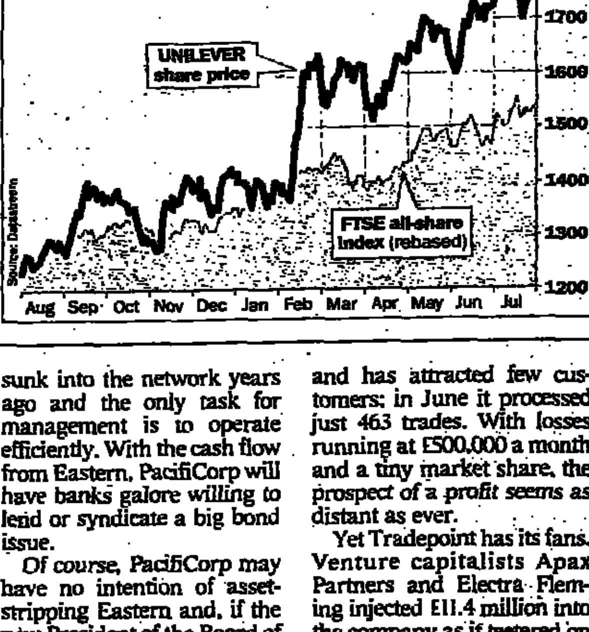
The question is whether Lloyds TSB can continue to generate such high returns — 40 *per cent on a rising* capital base. With £1 billion of spare cash flow the bank can keep the returns running at a high level by distributing capital. The shambling efforts of rival banks may give them comfort but the real competition may come from outside the industry among retailers with swollen balance sheets. If Lloyds TSB has slowed the closure of its branches it may be due to fears that cost-cutting will not be an easy route to growth as the banking *market opens up* further.

Unilever

DON'T look for consistency in this stock market. Growth businesses are supposed to be the fashion, but shares in dear old Unilever — which managed to increase its sales by just 1 per cent in the *second quarter — are rated at* a 25 per cent premium to the market. Profits were well up in the second quarter, but over the longer term the City is expecting earnings growth of 7 to 9 per cent a year from *the* soaps to margarine combine. Hardly exciting stuff.

Restructuring is behind *the 32 per cent increase in* operating profit. The Anglo-Dutch group has been tailoring its asset base to suit more competitive markets in the developed world, with heavy provisions in the accounts *for the cost of shedding staff* and plant.

Few would fault the strategy, but Unilever is still weighed down by businesses in the developed world, where the top line is shrinking in real terms. If the market is prepared to rate Unilever so *highly*, it has more to do with its fat balance sheet and the expec*tation of a huge acquisition*. After the sale of the chemicals business, Unilever could spend £10 billion without enduring severe financial stress. However, it would be wiser to wait. Any business with the growth potential needed to give a boost to *Unilever's sluggish sales* will be priced accordingly. In the meantime, the price of Unilever should reflect the more modest gains from cost-cutting.



Energy Group

WHERE does public interest begin and competition policy end? With a change of government, it seems. Our last rulers were deeply worried about the creation of big *regional electricity monopolies*, so horizontal integration — such as the Southern Electricity/Sweb merger — were ruled out of bounds. Too much power over too many customers and the disappearance of businesses that could be used as comparators for regulatory pur*poses were the concerns.*

PacifiCorp has ambitions to take over the world, it seems, but its bid for Energy Group will still leave it a minority player in the UK. What worries this Government is that Eastern Electricity could be raped and pillaged in order to finance *PacifiCorp's grandiose* ambitions elsewhere. Electricity companies are cash machines.

The capital investment was sunk into the network years ago and the only task for management is to operate efficiently. With the cash flow from Eastern, PacifiCorp will have banks galore willing to lend or syndicate a big bond issue.

Of course, PacifiCorp may have no intention of asset-stripping Eastern and, if the new President of the Board of Trade rules against the take-over, where does this leave competition policy? Perhaps horizontal mergers should be encouraged? After all, two domestic electricity com*panies would be jolly strong*, easier to police than johnny foreigner and shareholders would love the dividends.

Tradepoint

COVENT GARDEN, the mecca of buskers and street performers, has taught Tradepoint *the importance of* hanging on even when you know your act stinks. Its electronic *share dealing system* was set up in September 1995 and has attracted few customers: in June it processed just 463 trades. With losses running at £500,000 a month and a tiny market share, the *prospect of a profit seems as* distant as ever.

Yet Tradepoint has its fans. Venture capitalists Apax Partners and Electra Fleming injected £11.4 million into the company as if teetered on the edge of bankruptcy. That should keep the bailiffs at bay. Meanwhile, three directors have departed giving new board member Stanislas Yassukovich, former deputy *chairman of the Stock Exchange*, a chance to find a strategy for Tradepoint that might take business from his former employer.

Equally important is a £2.5 million investment by three of the City's leading inter broker dealers. This could give Tradepoint enough critical *mass to survive longer term* and a chance to pull a rabbit out of this threadbare hat.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	1020-1016	Dec	1032-1031
Dec	1052-1051	Mar	1148-1144
Mar	1075-1074	May	1152-1146
May	1092-1090	Jul	1170-1155
Jul	1106-1106		
Sep	1123-1122		Volume: 2010

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	1625-1619	May	1545 SLR
Nov	1615-1610	Jul	1540-1530
Jan	1587-1565	Sep	unq
Mar	1555-1545		Volume: 2547

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	321.1-19.5
Spot. n/a		Aug	319.1-16.5
Oct	326.9-26.0	Oct	314.1-10.5
Dec	321.8-21.1	Dec	314.1-09.0
Mar	322.5-21.8		Volume: 1618

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on July 31

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	81.79	106.46	98.51
(+/-)	-3.31	-2.05	-1.25
Eng/Wales	82.76	106.77	97.77
(+/-)	-3.36	-1.79	-1.86
(%)	+20.0	-5.0	+16.0
Scotland	100.00	104.56	101.79
(+/-)	-22.53	-3.46	+1.59
(%)	-54.0	+31.0	-14.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.25	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Sep)	18.90	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.90	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	20.20	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	20.25	+0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	212 (n/c)	215 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	171 (+3)	173 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	84 (n/c)	86 (n/c)
Naphtha	191 (n/c)	193 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Aug	171.25-71.50	Nov	175.25-75.75
Sep	173.00-73.25	Dec	176.25-77.00
Oct	174.50-74.75		Vol: 11095

BRENT (6.00pm)

Sep	18.93-18.94	Dec	19.05 SLR
Oct	18.93-18.95	Jan	n/a
Nov	18.99-19.01		Vol: 16058

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	82.00	Sep	77.25
Nov	84.40	Nov	79.40
Jan	*86.30*	*Jan*	*81.40*
Mar	88.30	Mar	83.40
May	90.30	May	84.65
Volume: 361			Volume: 35

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	62.0
Mar		105.0
Apr	95.0	117.0
		Volume: 368

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Aug 63.00-63.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Aug 97	1295	1280	1285
Sep 97	1360	1360	1355
Oct 97	1465	1461	1455
Jan 98	unq	—14	65
Vol: 39 lots		Open interest: 3031	

Index 1279 -1

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2338.0-2339.0	3mth: 2312.0-2313.0	Vol: 1308600
Lead ($/tonne)	627.00-627.50	638.00-638.50	270125
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1558.0-1559.0	1460.0-1462.0	1224250
Tin ($/tonne)	5545.0-5555.0	5590.0-5595.0	25545
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1710.0-1712.0	1710.0-1710.5	2892325
Nickel ($/tonne)	7340.0-7350.0	7465.0-7470.0	107058

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 97	115-16	115-25	114-13	114-29	102191
Previous open interest 195292	Dec 97	114-18	114-20	114-18	114-17	328
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	103.14	103.16	102.24	102.47	224884
Previous open interest 288926	Dec 97	102.19	102.23	101.60	101.65	2211
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	136.96	137.30	136.22	136.45	59061
Previous open interest 108500	Dec 97	109.06	109.06	108.59	108.46	353
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	126.70	126.79	126.56	126.60	3478
	Dec 97	126.10	126.14	126.03	125.99	322
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.71	92.71	92.67	92.68	22643
	Dec 97	92.56	92.58	92.49	92.51	42866
Previous open interest 625691	Mar 98	92.55	92.58	92.49	92.51	18822
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 97	96.69	96.70	96.64	96.66	26868
Previous open interest 1620331	Dec 97	96.55	96.55	96.47	96.48	55309
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 97	93.30	93.33	93.28	93.31	13787
Previous open interest 373000	Dec 97	93.65	93.67	93.60	93.66	12064
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97				99.31	0
	Mar 98				99.19	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 97	98.45	98.48	98.44	98.46	5102
Previous open interest 137793	Dec 97	98.30	98.33	98.28	98.31	3908
Three Mth ECU	Sep 97	95.66	95.66	95.60	95.61	1342
Previous open interest 39500	Dec 97	95.62	95.63	95.58	95.59	607
FTSE 100	Sep 97	4930.0	4953.0	4848.0	4879.0	9761
Previous open interest 79235	Dec 97				4942.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¾ Low 6½ Week fixed: 6¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅝ ; 3 mth 6 9/16 , Sell: 2 mth 6 9/16 ; 3 mth: 6 17/32 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6 11/16-6⅝	6 11/16-6 19/32	7-6 13/16	7⅛-7 1/16	
Sterling Money Rates:	7-6 13/16	7⅛-7 1/32	7¼-7 3/16	7⅜-7¼	7 11/16-7 11/16
Interbank:	7-6 13/16	7⅛-7 1/16	7¼-7⅛	7⅜-7¼	7 11/16-7 9/16

Overnight: open 6¾, close 6¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6¾	n/a	7 1/16	7 5/16	7⅝
Sterling CDs:	6 13/16-6 25/32	7 1/32-6 31/32	7⅛-7 1/16	7½-7⅜	7¾-7⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.62	5.70	5.83
Building Society CDs:	7-6 13/16	7⅛-7	7⅛-7 1/16	7⅜-7 5/16	7 11/16-7 9/16

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1,078m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.32% received: 86%; Last week: £98.34% received: 39%; Avge rate: £6.7348% last wk £6.6436%; Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5 9/16-5 7/16	5⅝-5½	5 11/16-5 9/16	5 13/16-5 11/16	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2 31/32	3 5/16-3 3/16	3 7/16-3 5/16	3¼-2¾
French Franc:	3¼-3	3¼-3 1/16	3¼-3⅛	3½-3⅜	3¼-2¾
Swiss Franc:	1½-1¼	1½-1⅜	1⅝-1½	1¾-1⅝	1¼-¾
Yen:	½-¼	½-⅜	9/16-7/16	¾-⅝	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $324.70-325.00 Close: $323.80-324.30 High: $325.00-325.40
Low: $323.70-324.20 AM: $325.30 PM: $324.10

Krugerrand: $323.50-325.50 (£198.00-200.00)

Platinum: $433.00 (£265.00) Silver: $4.46 (£2.725) Palladium: $227.50 (£139.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Aug 1	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.4067-3.4264	3.4221-3.4257	1¼-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	62.430-62.2830	62.707-62.827	20-15pr	60-53pr
Copenhagen	11.523-11.599	11.577-11.588	¾-¼pr	1¾pr
Dublin	1.1256-1.1338	1.1269-1.1298	10-4pr	26-19pr
Frankfurt	*3.0246-3.0438*	*3.0380-3.0408*	1-¾pr	3-2¾pr
Lisbon	305.65-307.65	307.17-307.44	½-¼pr	1½-1pr
Madrid	255.27-256.90	256.35-256.67	39-28pr	121-103pr
Milan	2950.5-2972.1	2966.1-2969.6	½pr-½ds	¾pr-¼ds
Montreal	2.2543-2.2616	2.2594-2.2616	0.72-0.68pr	1.39-1.32pr
New York	1.6356-1.6400	1.6365-1.6375	0.203-0.182pr	0.618-0.587pr
Oslo	12.506-12.591	12.570-12.582	½-¼pr	1¾pr
Paris	10.191-10.264	10.241-10.252	½-¼pr	1¾pr
Stockholm	13.092-13.173	13.111-13.127	½-¼pr	1¾pr
Tokyo	193.13-195.21	193.13-193.37	1¼-1pr	3¼-3¼pr
Vienna	21.392-21.423	21.376-21.397	½-¼pr	2¼-1½pr
Zurich	2.4823-2.4939	2.4875-2.4906	1¼-1½pr	3½-3¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3517-1.3526
Austria	*13.07-13.08*
Belgium (Com)	38.37-38.38
Canada	1.3794-1.3799
Denmark	7.0835-7.0855
France	6.2635-6.2655
Germany	1.8602-1.8607
Hong Kong	7.7425-7.7435
Ireland	1.4449-1.4499
Italy	1814.60-1815.10
Japan	118.45-118.55
Malaysia	2.6370-2.6400
Netherlands	2.0939-2.0959
Norway	7.6925-7.6985
Portugal	188.02-188.07
Singapore	*1.4735-1.4745*
Spain	157.02-157.05
Sweden	8.0455-8.0530
Switzerland	1.5228-1.5238

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6344-1.6371
Australia dollar	*2.2131-2.2160*
Bahrain dinar	0.6120-0.6240
Brazil real*	1.7677-1.7722
China yuan	13.436-13.736
Cyprus pound	0.8810-0.8910
Finland markka	*8.9725-9.0885*
Greece drachma	469.0-476.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.6714-12.6808
India rupee	58.06-59.02
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4950-0.5050
Malaysia ringgit	4.3157-4.3233
New Zealand dollar	2.5433-2.5468
Pakistan rupee	65.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9050-6.0290
Singapore dollar	2.4115-2.4146
S Africa rand (com)	7.5080-7.6100
U A E dirham	5.9575-6.0815

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,600	Ladbroke	5,300
ASDA Gp	6,500	Land Secs	1,500
Abbey Ntl	2,500	Legal & Gn	1,100
Allnce & Leic	4,900	Lloyds TSB	21,400
Allied Dom	4,500	LucasVarity	9,600
AB Foods	926	Marks Spr	3,400
BAA	1,000	Mercury Ast	356
BAT Inds	9,500	NatWst Bk	4,400
BG	10,800	Nat Grid	3,900
BOC	298	Nat Power	2,700
BP	4,000	Next	1,700
BSkyB	5,400	Orange	429
BTR	21,200	P & O	1,200
BT	23,500	Pearson	990
Bk of Scot	3,700	PowerGen	1,500
Barclays	6,900	Prudential	7,200
Bass	2,700	RMC	409
Blue Circle	3,900	Railtrack	1,200
Boots	1,600	Rank Group	4,300
BAe	1,300	Reckitt Col	1,200
BA	2,400	Reed Intl	1,900
British Land	1,000	Rentokil	6,500
Brit Steel	*8,200*	Reuters	8,600
Burmah Cstl	1,100	Rio Tinto	2,000
Cable Wire	3,700	Rolls Royce	2,600
Cadbury	4,500	Royal & Sun	3,300
Carlton Cms	1,800	Royal Bk Sct	4,200
Centrica	*6,100*	*Safeway*	*4,500*
Cm Union	1,800	Sainsbury	3,200
Dixons	2,000	Schroders	67
EMI	2,600	Scot & New	2,600
Energy Gp	16,900	Scot Power	3,800
Enterpr Oil	*641*	Svrn Trent	2,800
GKN	654	Shell Trans	8,300
GRE	1,200	Siebe	1,400
GUS	1,800	SmKl Bch	5,900
Gen Acc	434	Smiths Inds	1,800
Gen Elec	5,200	*Std Chartd*	*1,600*
Glaxo Wellc	5,900	TI Gp	1,200
Granada	1,900	Tate & Lyle	4,500
Grand Met	4,900	Tesco	5,900
Guinness	3,100	Thames W	652
HSBC	2,400	Tomkins	2,900
Halifax	10,300	Unilever	4,000
Hanson	1,100	Utd Utilities	2,700
Hays	2,100	Utd News	276
ICI	2,700	Vodafone	5,600
Imp Tob	516	Whitbread	389
Kingfisher	1,600	Wolseley	800
LASMO	2,000	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Aug 1 midday	Jul 31 close
AMP Inc	51⅞	52¼
AMR Corp	106⅝	107¼
AT & T	36½	36⅞
Abbott Labs	66	65½
Advanced Micro	36⅛	35⅛
Aetna Life	113¼	113⅛
Ahmanson (HF)	52½	53½
Air Prod & Chem	87½	88⅛
AirTouch Comm	32⅛	32⅞
Albertson's	36½	37⅛
Alcan Aluminium	39½	39⅜
Allied Signal	92⅛	92⅞
Alum Co of Am	88½	89½
Amerada Hess	58½	58⅝
Amer El Power	44⅝	44½
Amer Express	83⅛	83½
Amer Genl Corp	52⅝	53¼
Amer Home Pr	81⅝	82⅛
Amer Intl	105⅞	106½
Amer Stores	25	25½
Amer Standard	49⅝	49⅛
Ameritech	66½	67¼
Amgen	58⅞	58⅝
Amoco	93⅞	94
Andrew Corp	27	26½
Anheuser-Busch	42⅝	42⅝
Apple Computer	17⅛	17½
Archer Daniels	22½	22½
Armco	5½	5½
Armstrng Wrld	73½	73⅝
Asarco	33⅞	34
Atl Richfield	74½	74⅛
Atmel Corp	33⅞	34½
Auto Data Pro	49½	49½
Avery Dennison	43½	44½
Avon Products	72½	72⅝
Baker Hughes	44⅛	44¼
Baltim Gas & El	27⅞	27⅛
Banc One	55⅝	56½
BankAmerica	75	75½
Bank of NY	48½	48⅝
Bankers Tr NY	100½	101⅛
Barnett Banks	56½	56⅜
Bausch & Lomb	42½	42⅝
Baxter Intl	57⅛	57⅛
Bectn Dicknsn	53½	53½
Bell Atlantic	72½	72½
BellSouth	47⅛	47½
Black & Decker	41⅞	42½
Block (H&R)	38	38½
Boeing	58⅞	58⅞
Boise Cascade	36½	37⅛
Boston Scien	71⅞	71½
Bristol Myrs Sq	78½	78⅛
Browning Ferris	36½	37
Brunswick	32½	32½
Burlington Nthn	96⅛	96⅝
CMS Energy Corp	36⅞	37
CPC Intl	96⅝	95⅞
CSX	61½	61½
Campbell Soup	52	51½
Carolina Pwr	35½	35½
Case Corp	62	62⅞
Caterpillar	58	56
Central & SW	20	20⅛
Champion Intl	61½	62
Chase Manhat	112½	113⅞
Chevron Corp	78½	79½
Chrysler	36½	37½
Chubb Corp	70½	70½
Cigna Corp	199½	199½
Citicorp	135½	135½
Clorox	139½	139⅞
Coastal Corp	54½	54½
Coca Cola	69½	69½
Coca Cola Ent	31	31⅛
Colgate-Palm	76½	75½
Columbia Gas	68½	68⅛
Columbia/HCA	31½	32½
Compaq Comp	57½	57½
Comp Ass Intl	67½	68⅞
Conagra	70½	70½
Cons Edison	31½	31½
Cons Nat Gas	58½	57½
Cooper Inds	55⅞	55⅞
Corestates	61	61⅛
Corning Inc	61⅛	61⅛
C'wide Credit	34½	35½
Crestar Finl	47⅛	47⅛
Crown Cork	50½	50½
Dana Corp	46½	45⅞
Dayton Hudson	64	64½
Deere	57⅛	56½
Delta Air Lines	89½	88½
Deluxe Corp	33⅞	33⅛
Digital Equip	41½	41⅛
Dillard Dept St	37½	37⅞
Disney (Walt)	81½	80⅞
Dominion Res	36⅛	36½
Donelley (RR)	40	40⅛
Dover Corp	71⅝	71½
Dow Chemical	94½	95
Dow Jones	43⅛	43⅛
Dresser	41½	41½
Duke Power	51	50⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	26½	26
Du Pont	67½	66⅞
Eastman Chem	59½	60½
Eastman Kodak	68½	67
Eaton Corp	90	90⅛

	Aug 1 midday	Jul 31 close
Edison Intl	25½	25½
Elect Data Sys	43⅛	43½
Emerson Elec	58½	59
Engelhard Corp	21½	21½
Enron Corp	37½	37⅞
Entergy	28½	27⅛
Ethyl Corp	9⅛	9⅛
Exxon	64½	64½
FMC Corp	86½	85½
FPL Group	47½	47½
Federal Express	64	64⅛
Fifth Third Banc	62½	63½
First Bk Sys	88½	89
Fleet Finl Grp	67½	67½
Fluor Corp	61⅛	61½
Ford Motor	40½	40½
Fortune Brands	35½	35⅛
Franklin Res	84½	84⅞
GTE Corp	46½	46½
Gannett	99⅛	99⅛
Gap Inc Del	44⅛	44⅛
Gen Dynamics	87½	88½
Gen Electric	69½	70½
Gen Mills	69⅞	69½
Gen Motors	61⅛	61½
Gen Reinsurance	207½	208½
Gen Signal	49½	49⅛
Genuine Parts	33⅞	32½
Georgia Pac	94½	94⅛
Gillette	98⅞	99
Glaxo Wellc ADR	42½	42½
Goodrich (BF)	45½	45½
Goodyear Tire	64⅛	64⅞
Grt Atl Pac Tea	27	27⅛
Great Lakes	50½	50½
Halliburton	45½	46
Harcourt General	47½	47½
Heinz (HJ)	46½	46½
Hercules	53⅛	53½
Hershey Foods	55½	55½
Hewlett Packard	70⅛	70⅛
Hilton Hotels	31⅛	31½
Home Depot	49½	49½
Homestake Mng	13½	13⅞
Honeywell	74½	74⅞
Household Intl	125½	128½
Houston Inds	20½	20⅞
Humana	24½	24½
ITT Corp	64	65⅞
Ikon Office	28½	28½
Illinois Tool	51½	51½
Illinova	23⅞	23½
INCO	31½	30⅞
Ingersoll Rand	68⅛	68½
Inland Steel	22⅞	22⅛
Intel Corp	93½	91⅛
IBM	109½	105½
Intl Flav & Fr	53	53
Intl Paper	56½	56
James River Va	41	41⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	62⅛	62⅛
Kellogg	97⅛	91½
Kerr-McGee	67½	67½
Kimberly-Clark	50½	50⅞
Kmart	12	11½
Knight-Ridder	49½	49⅞
Lilly (Eli)	112½	113
Limited Inc	22	23⅛
Lincoln Nat	70	71½
Litton	51½	51⅞
Liz Claiborne	47⅛	47
Lockheed Martin	105⅛	106½
Louisiana Pac	22⅞	22⅞
MCI Comm	35	35⅛
Manpower Inc	48⅛	48⅛
Marriott Int	68	68½
Marsh & McLen	77⅝	77½
Masco Corp	48½	46½
May Dept St	55½	55½
Maytag Corp	29½	29½
McDonalds	53⅛	53½
McGraw Hill	67⅛	67⅞
Mead Corp	71⅞	72
Medtronic	88⅛	87½
Mellon Bk	50	50⅛
Merck Inc	103½	103⅞
Merrill Lynch	69½	70⅛
Microsoft	141½	141½
Minnesota Mine	94½	94½
Mobil Corp	75½	76½
Monsanto	49⅞	49⅞
Morgan (JP)	114⅞	115½
Motorola Inc	80½	80⅛
Natl Semi	31½	31½
Natl Service Ind	49½	49½
Navistar Int	20½	20½
NY Times A	50⅛	50½
Newmont Mng	41½	41½
Nike B	62⅛	62⅞
NL Industries	13½	13½
Noram Energy	15⅞	16
Nordstrom	58½	58⅞
Norfolk Sthrn	110½	110⅞
Nthn State Pwr	51	51½
Norwest Corp	62½	63⅛
Nynex Corp	55½	55½
Occidental Pet	25	25⅛
Ohio Edison	22½	22½
Oracle	55½	54⅞
Oryx Energy Co	24⅛	24⅛

	Aug 1 midday	Jul 31 close
Owens Corning	42½	42⅛
PPG Industries	64½	64
PMI Group	58½	59
PNC Bank	45½	45½
PP&L Res	20½	20½
Paccar Inc	49½	49½
Pacificorp	21⅞	22½
Pac Enterprises	33½	33½
Pall Corp	25½	25½
Parker Hannifin	64	64½
Peco Energy	23½	23½
Penney (JC)	58	58½
Pennzoil	77½	78½
Pepsico	37⅞	38⅛
Pfizer	59	59½
Pharm & Upjhn	38⅛	37½
Phelps Dodge	84½	85⅛
Philip Morris	44⅞	45½
Phillips Pet	46⅛	46⅛
Pitney Bowes	74⅞	75½
Polaroid	59½	59½
Procter & Gmbl	154½	152½
Providian	39½	39⅛
Pub Serv E & G	24⅛	24½
Quaker Oats	52½	51½
Ralston Purina	90⅛	90½
Raychem Corp	96⅛	97
Raytheon	56⅛	55½
Reebok Intl	51½	51½
Reynolds Metals	77⅝	78
Rockwell Intl	65½	65½
Rohm & Haas	97½	98
Royal Dutch	55	55⅞
Rubbermaid	26½	26½
SBC Comms	59½	59⅛
Safeco Corp	47½	47½
St Paul's Cos	78⅛	78⅛
Sallie Mae	149⅛	149⅞
Salomon Inc	64	63⅛
Sara Lee Corp	44	43⅞
Schering Plough	53½	54⅛
Schlumberger	76½	76½
Seagram	38½	38⅛
Sears Roebuck	62½	63⅛
Shell Trans	44	44½
Sherwin Wlms	32½	32½
Silicon Graphics	24⅞	25
Snap-On-Tools	41½	41½
Southern Co	21½	21⅞
Southtrust	46½	47½
Sprint Corp	49½	49½
Stanley Works	45½	45½
Sun Company	36	35⅞
Sun Microsys	49⅛	49⅛
Suntrust	63½	64⅛
Supervalu	40½	40½
Synovus Fin	28½	28⅛
Sysco Corp	37⅛	37⅛
TRW Inc	58	58½
TIG Hldgs	32⅛	32½
Tandem Comp	27½	29
Tandy Corp	89½	89½
Temple Inland	67½	68⅛
Tenet Healthcare	29½	29⅛
Tenneco	46⅞	48½
Texaco	115⅞	116⅛
Texas Inst	117½	115
Texas Utilities	35½	35½
Textron	69½	70⅛
Thermo Elect	34½	36½
Time Warner	54⅛	54⅛
Times-Mirror A	54½	54½
Timken	35	35½
Torchmark	79½	79½
Toys R Us	33½	34⅛
Transamerica	100½	100½
Travelers	71½	71⅛
Tribune	52½	52⅛
UST Inc	29½	29½
UAL	81½	82⅛
US Inds	40½	40½
US West Comm	38½	38⅛
US West Media	22	22½
USAirways Group	38½	38½
USX Marathon	32½	32⅛
Unicom	22⅛	22⅛
Unilever NV	224⅛	218
Union Camp	59½	58½
Union Carbide	55½	55½
Union Pacific	71⅛	71⅛
Unisys Corp	9	9
USF&G Corp	24⅛	24⅛
United Tech	85½	84½
Unocal Corp	39½	40
VF Corp	89½	89⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	37½	37½
Warner-Lambert	137½	139½
Waste Mngmt	31½	32
Wells Fargo	273½	274½
Westinghouse El	24½	24½
Weyerhaeuser	62½	62½
Whirlpool	50½	50
Whitman	25½	25½
Winn Dixie	36½	38½
Witco Corp	45½	45⅛
Woolworth	27½	28½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	78⅞	78⅞
Xerox	82½	82⅞
Xilinx Inc	48½	47½

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Alld Dom	420	36½	47	52	6	16	19½
(*447)	460	16	25	31½	21	36	39½
ASDA	140	7	11½	14	6½	8½	9
(*141½)	160	1½	4½	6	20	21½	22½
Boots	750	50	71½	—	21	36	—
(*776)	800	28	44½	61½	43	55½	59
Br Airways	600	60½	75	85½	14	21	25
(*639)	650	31½	47	57½	33	42	47
BP	800	42½	59	75	21	32½	39
(*819)	850	20	39	50	46½	58	64
Br Steel	160	10½	14	17	6½	11½	12
(*161½)	180	3½	6½	8½	19	23½	23
C & W	600	37	55	68½	29	36	41½
(*602½)	650	16	33	46	56½	64½	69½
CU	650	53½	76	90	30	43	54
(*677½)	700	31	53½	63	57	69	80
ICI	950	44½	111½	128	19	37½	44
(*1017)	1000	54	87	97	39	52	65½
Land Sec	900	51	70	85½	17	27	31
(*923)	950	24	43½	58	40	51	54
M & S	550	58½	68½	81	4	14½	17½
(*594)	600	29½	39	51	25	32½	37½
Nat West	850	60½	99½	111½	50½	75	88½
(*860½)	900	39½	76½	89½	79	102	117
Safeway plc	360	34½	43	50	6½	12	15
(*384½)	390	16	25½	33½	17½	24½	28
Sainsbury	420	24½	35	44	15	20½	24½
(*426½)	460	9	18	25½	34	43	49½
Shell	433	25½	36	—	16	25	—
(*439½)	460	17½	29½	—	27	33	—
Smkl Bch	1150	73	111½	137½	43½	66	79
(*1166½)	1200	48½	85½	112	69	89	103
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	2000	112½	164½	191	66	99	115
(*2015½)	2100	71½	120½	142	120	152	167
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAT Ind	500	30½	48½	54½	29½	38	46½
(*504)	550	11	28½	34½	62½	68½	77
Vodafone	300	20	28½	34½	10½	17	19½
(*308)	330	7½	15½	21	26	33	36
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Grnd Met	550	45	62	75½	2	11	22
(*591½)	600	12	32½	46	18	39½	43
Ladbroke	240	7	16	22½	5½	12½	14
(*241)	260	1	8	14½	19	24½	26
Utd Bisc	200	8½	15½	20½	2½	8½	10½
(*205½)	220	1	6½	12	15	20	22

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAA	550	32½	47	55	13½	21	24½
(*562½)	600	11	23½	31	43	47½	51
Thames W	750	60½	73½	87	17½	25½	30
(*785½)	800	31½	46½	60	37½	48½	53
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
BTR	180	8	14½	21	3½	11	12½
(*186)	200	0½	7½	12½	15½	23	23½
Br Aero	1350	33	78	109½	23	52	63
(*1359)	1400	11½	53½	83½	50½	76½	88
Br Telcm	420	13½	27½	33½	18	32	33½
(*428½)	460	4	14	20	49½	58	59
Cadbury	550	39½	54½	68	2	13½	19½
(*585)	600	9½	29½	40	21	35½	41
Guinness	550	34½	49½	60	4	17	18½
(*580)	600	6	22½	33½	25	38½	45
GEC	330	22	33½	39	2½	7½	11
(*350)	360	4	16½	22½	13½	20	23½
Hanson	300	13	22½	31½	3½	12½	16½
(*309½)	330	1½	9½	17½	22	29½	33
LASMO	260	19½	29	34½	2½	7	10
(*276)	280	6	17½	23	10	14	16½
LucasVarity	180	14½	21½	25½	1	6	7
(*192)	200	2½	11½	15½	9½	15	16½
Pilkngtn	130	2	—	—	2½	—	—
(*134)	140	3	—	—	8	—	—
Prudential	550	52	70½	90	2	17	25½
(*597)	600	19½	42	63	17½	38	47
Redland	280	13½	23½	31	3	11½	14½
(*287½)	300	4	14	21½	14	22	24½
R-Royce	220	16	26	32	1	8½	10½
(*230)	240	5	15	21	8½	16½	19½
Tesco	420	11½	24½	38	9	19½	24½
(*422)	460	1	9½	23½	38	44	48
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4907½)

	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950	5000
Calls						
Aug	152½	108½	75	49½	31	18½
Sep	207½	174	141½	112½	92	70½
Oct	247	216½	185½	156	134½	112
Nov	287½	257	226	196	173½	151
Dec	—	299½	—	232	—	184
Puts						
Aug	27	41	60	87½	119½	158
Sep	75½	88	114½	138	167½	198½
Oct	99½	120	140½	161½	192½	223
Nov	133	152½	172	194	221½	250
Dec	—	156½	—	197½	—	254

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Abby Nat	800	75	104	116½	27½	42	53½
(*848½)	850	48	78½	90	49½	66	76½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1250	97½	147½	161½	45	75½	88
(*1297)	1300	72½	122	136	69	100	111½
Natl Pwr	500	56	65½	74	8	16½	17
(*541½)	550	25	36	45	25	36	37½
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo Well	1300	62½	100½	127½	55	70½	89
(*1305½)	1350	42½	80½	103½	84	103½	116
HSBC	2100	164	234	279½	59½	97	121
(*2194)	2200	108½	182	227	103½	144	169½
Reuter	600	53½	71	83	13½	25½	29½
(*640½)	650	24½	44	55	33½	44½	51
Royal & Sun	500	28	45	52	25½	35½	42
(*503)	550	9½	24½	31	57½	65	71½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Blue Circ	390	24½	35	44	1½	10	13½
(*411)	420	6	18½	27	13½	24	28
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Kingfishr	700	22½	47½	61½	13	32½	37
(*709½)	750	5½	28	40½	44½	59½	62
	Series	Jan			Jan		
Br Gas	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Series	Sep	Dec	Mar	Sep	Dec	Mar
Dixons	600	31	54	64	21½	32	37
(*608)	650	11½	31½	41	51	61½	64
EMI Group	548	34½	55	67½	19½	27	32
(*562)	575	21	41½	53½	29	40	45
Tarmac	110	8	11	14½	2½	6	7
(*113½)	120	3½	6½	10	8	11½	13
Hillsdwn	140	21½	—	—	0	—	—
(*159½)	160	7	—	—	5	—	—
Lonrho	120	6½	12	15	4	6	8½
(*122)	130	4½	7½	10½	10	11½	14
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	300	11½	19½	24	9	14	18
(*307½)	330	1½	8	11½	31½	35	36
Lloyds TSB	700	54½	86	96	25	42½	49
(*732)	750	30	60½	70½	49½	67½	73
Scot Pwr	420	14½	25½	30	19½	28	31
(*421½)	460	4	12	16	50½	53½	56
Unilever	1800	70	123½	163	35	73½	76½
(*1820½)	1900	26	91	113	93	126½	128

August 1 1997 Tot 26367 Call 11348 Put 15019 FTSE Call 2169 Put 6776
*Underlying security price.

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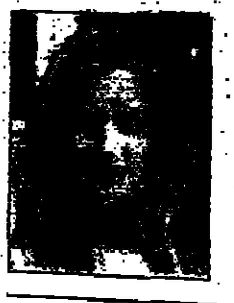

DOUBLE TROUBLE 29

The couple who were gazumped twice in a row

WEEKEND MONEY

TAX EFFICIENT 30

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THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Sara McConnell says tardy lenders and local authorities are accused of causing longest delays

Agents urge action to end gazumping

ANGUS MEWSE

Estate agents this week accused lenders and local authorities of opening the way to gazumpers by failing to turn round mortgage applications and searches quickly enough and causing long delays in house-buying.

Hitting back at critics who accuse estate agents of encouraging gazumping — rejecting an accepted offer in favour of a higher one — estate agents called on the Government to compel lenders to process mortgage applications in two weeks and to "sort out" local authorities.

Lorna Vestey, a partner at Knight Frank, the international estate agent, said: "Lenders lack a culture of urgency and need to polish up their act. The same applies to local authorities. Solicitors can exchange contracts in hours if everything is there." She warned the longer the delay, the more opportunity sellers have to gazump.

Her criticisms come as ministers prepare to hold the first of a series of meetings next week to establish ground rules for a review of the house buying system in England and Wales. It will include proposals to stamp out gazumping and will monitor several cases, focusing on the role of solicitors, agents, lenders, the causes of delays and costs of conveyancing.

The Government pledged in its election manifesto to tackle gazumping, which has returned particularly in London and the South East. Frustrated buyers have spent hundreds of pounds on valuations and legal fees only to find they have been passed over because another buyer is offering more. Agents say they are legally bound to pass on all offers and claim they do not encourage gazumping.

Under the current system, neither side is bound by any agreement in England and Wales until contracts have been exchanged. It can often take months between making an offer and exchanging contracts. The Government is considering compelling buyers and sellers to put down a deposit, maybe 5 per cent of purchase price, which either side would forfeit by backing out without good reason and which would cover the "wronged" party's legal costs.

Such agreements have long been championed by the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA).

But Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, NAEA chief executive, said a contract alone would not end gazumping. "It would pay compensation to cover legal costs incurred before gazumping or gazundering — where a buyer backs out if the seller refuses to lower the price".

He argues that gazumping is just one of the most painful and visible results of an inefficient system where everyone sits back and waits for someone else to act. He said: "One cog slowing down slows down all the others. There are inherent delays in the system."

Mr Dunsmore-Hardy echoed Mrs Vestey's call for mortgage lenders to review their systems and said more lenders should adopt the practice of issuing mortgage certificates showing that they were prepared to lend a certain amount on principle.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders agreed that lenders could do more but argued that they were not the biggest cause of delay. "The big problem is chains and finding a way to break them". CML rejected accusations that lenders lacked urgency. "We've found there is a real culture of competition".

Determined gazumpers will not be deterred by threats of compensation for legal costs, particularly in London where property is in short supply and buyers will pay high prices. But you can speed the buying process to cut the likelihood of being gazumped.

- Get a loan organised before you find a property. Give lenders all the necessary documents including payslips, accounts and references.
- Contact a solicitor before seeking a property and tell them you want to move fast when you find a place to buy.
- If there are delays on local authority searches ask if you can do a personal search.
- Do not assume everyone works flat out for you. Ask constantly about progress.

Twice gazumped, page 29

THE REAL COST OF MOVING

Before buyers can exchange contracts and be certain of their property, they have to spend money on:

- **A valuation or survey.** Lenders charge a fixed fee for a basic valuation. On a £100,000 three-bed semi this would be £120. A housebuyer's report would be £250+VAT and full survey £350+VAT.
- **A local authority search.** Local authorities can charge what they like. On a £100,000 property, the average is £91.
- **Legal fees.** These vary by region and cost of property. Gazumped buyers must pay for work already done. Quotes ranged from £199 to £551 across the country for buying a £75,000 house in Cumbria.
- **Mortgage set-up fees.** Securing a fixed-rate or discount deal costs about £250. Some booking fees are non-refundable if gazumped. Others are payable on completion and refundable if the deal fails.

Buyers who do exchange contracts will also have to pay:

- **Land Registry fees** for transferring the property into their name. These range from £40 for properties up to £30,000 to £1,800 for properties of £500,000 or more.
- **Stamp duty.** Levied at 1 per cent of properties over £60,000, 1.5 per cent over £250,000 and 2 per cent over £500,000. Save money by negotiating a lower price and buying fixtures and fittings separately.
- **Removal costs.** These vary from £188 on average for moving from a ground floor one bedroom flat to £530 for removal from a five bedroom detached house. Costs in Yorkshire & Humberside are half those in London.

Sellers will also have to pay:

- **Agents' fees.** These range on average from £778 on a £25,000 property to £4,174 on a £200,000 home. Figures are for sole agency.

Sources: Woolwich, Cumbria Trading Standards, RICS, London & Country Mortgages, Land Registry

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Scottish and US systems have their flaws too

English and Welsh housebuyers, seething at delays and gazumping, have long cast envious looks over the border where Scots sign on the dotted line when their offer is accepted.

Earlier this year ministers briefly flirted with extending the Scottish system to the rest of the UK. But the grass is not always greener, say those who have to operate under the Scottish system. There can be a lot of expense and stress before the deal is done.

Under the Scottish system buyers declare their interest in a property through a "note of interest" to the agent. They are then told the closing date by which offers must be received. Before the closing date they have to arrange and pay for surveys and searches on the property. Often there is no fixed price and buyers are bidding in the dark against rivals. If their offer is accepted, it becomes binding and there is a "conclusion of missives" (exchange of contracts).

But the system has two big disadvantages. If a bid fails, buyers will have spent money on searches and surveys for nothing. Even if the bid succeeds, buyers who have not yet sold their existing property may have to take out an expensive bridging loan. According to the National Association of Estate Agents, gazumping is still possible.

Other critics of the English system look to the US where buyers and sellers also sign binding contracts as soon as the offer is made. Real estate agents have to be qualified and licensed by their state regulator. Most of them have access to Multiple Listing Services, databases of property on the market locally and nationwide. This saves the familiar traipse up and down the high street at home.

Once a seller has accepted the offer, buyers immediately sign a contract, normally in the realtor's office. They then pay a deposit of roughly 10 per cent of the purchase price into an escrow account held by a bank or other regulated body. Escrow accounts are bonded under federal law so that buyers can get their money back if anything goes wrong.

The contract specifies a closing date (completion date) in the same way as in the UK. Standard contracts contain let-out clauses in case of problems over loans or structural faults in the property.

But there are some danger areas for buyers, said Ben Stagg, partner in Goldschmidt & Howland, the London agent and a qualified California real estate salesman. Not doing a thorough title search before buying could mean unpaid loans emerge that were secured on the property by previous owners.

Mr Stagg said: "I have known deals where loans were outstanding months after someone moved in. Title searches are complex because all loans have to be searched to check there is nothing outstanding". Most US mortgage lenders demand title insurance, which pays out if the seller does not have good title.

SARA MCCONNELL

BT is stuck on the hook

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Just as members of British Telecom's two million legion of shareholders thought we could relax, things are going wrong again. The group's fraught talks with MCI, its American partner, are going round in ever-increasing circles. Uncertainty is here to stay, whether the merger first agreed last November goes ahead, is renegotiated or even aborted.

From the election to the Budget, BT shares suffered agonies over the windfall tax, which might have cost nothing if based on returns or billions if based on size. On the formula chosen, the impost on BT was somewhere down the middle, causing much relief. BT shares shot up 10 per cent. Since MCI's unbudgeted troubles unfolded a week later, they have fallen 15 per cent, or £5 billion.

Efforts have been made to justify that fall by cold calculation. Friends in the City want to give BT ammunition to renegotiate its generous offer for America's second biggest long-distance telephone company. Clever as the sums are, however, they do not add up. Essentially, MCI is losing about £250 million a year more than expected trying to break into protected markets of the vast local US monopolies that can now attack its markets. The fall in BT shares echoes the patter of cold feet in the City, limbering up to run away from the deal.

Worrying as this is, the MCI adventure has to be seen in the wider and scarcely sunnier context of BT's fortunes. These are reflected in its share price, which is about the same as four years ago and was mostly lower in between. By comparison, the FTSE 100 share index has risen about 70 per cent over the period, as have shares in rival Cable & Wireless group.

This stagnation is the work of Oftel. BT's domestic regulator has forced ever sharper price cuts on BT's UK utility business, while at the same time doing everything it can to encourage competitors and to prevent BT from responding. Even in a growing market, the twin pressures of falling prices and falling market share are now showing.

In the first quarter of BT's new financial year, turnover and profits were flat, even though the volume of international and domestic telephone calls was up about 8 per cent on a year ago. And competitors cut BT's residential lines at an annual rate of 2½ per cent.

These twin pressures will continue. Quite simply, if BT does much better, its regulator will think he has failed and impose harsher meaures. No wonder BT shares yield twice the FTSE average. This is not an acceptable prospect for shareholders, or for any competent, reasonably ambitious management. To get out of this bind, BT has to go abroad and become predator rather than incumbent. This is a far riskier business even than competing with BT at home. On the Continent and, as it turns out, in America, the playing field is not tilted to help newcomers as in Britain. They must toil uphill facing volleys of arrows from castles commanding the high ground. But there is a consensus that telecoms, like airlines, will end up as a global market dominated by a few competitors. BT virtually has to join in.

MCI, having grown big in America attacking AT&T's long-distance monopoly, looked an ideal partner to help to take on the rest of the world. But an MCI/BT merger was always going to be difficult. And BT was warned by observers of the US market that MCI was in trouble in its core business, let alone its new one.

BT's culture is diametrically different from MCI's. Indeed, the merger may in part have arisen because BT, then a 20 per cent holder, did not know what its partner was up to. To make matters worse, BT would be the senior partner, yet MCI's culture would have to prevail for the merger to achieve its ends. BT's loss of confidence in its partner, and investors' loss of confidence in BT's top management will not help. Whatever happens, BT must face far bigger trading risks in future, because the regulatory risk at home is now too high. This is probably not the moment for long-time investors to jump off, but strap in for a bumpy ride.

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DYLAN MARTINEZ

Billions of pounds have been invested by investment trust managers in Hong Kong

Shakeout time in investment trusts

Investors in this sector are becoming restive over the size of discounts, says **Caroline Merrell**

Flemings, one of the UK's biggest investment trust managers, this week heralded the start of what promises to be a shakeout in the £50 billion investment trust industry.

In a bid to reduce the discount on its Far Eastern *fund from the current* level of 8.83 per cent, the investment house proposes to remodel the trust. By giving the trust's 12,500 shareholders an opportunity to exchange their holdings into a Japanese unit trust, another Asian investment trust or into cash, the investment house hopes to pacify institutional shareholders who have been expressing concern about the performance of the trust. Its biggest institutional shareholders include Standard Life, AMP and the Prudential.

Analysts in the investment trust sector believe that moves to restructure this trust could be followed by other similar *moves in the industry. Since* the beginning of the Seventies, *each time discounts in* investment trusts build up, the *industry finds a way to bring* them down again. At the start *of the Seventies, discounts* were narrowed by the introduction *of savings plans,* which meant that they benefited from a regular supply of investors' money.

If a trust is trading at a discount to net asset value, shareholders cannot get the true value of their holdings if they choose to sell their shares. Discounts widened again at the end of the Eighties after the stock market crash.

Peter Walls, Credit Lyonnais investment trust analyst, said: "The second half of the Eighties was characterised by rationalisation. After the market crash at the end of 1987, markets were down and discounts widened. They reached 24.6 per cent *in August 1988,* compared with 12 per cent today."

He *added that the* trusts provided a *"happy hunting* ground" for arbitrageurs *looking for attractive* discounts. The rationalisation *means that the supply was* taken out of the sector and, by February 1994, the discounts had fallen to 4.1 per cent.

It was at this time that many unit trust houses decided to move into the investment trust market, as M&G, Perpetual, Kleinwort Benson and Mercury unveiled investment trusts. Many of these are *now at a big discount.*

Discounts may be nar*rowed for a third time by a* spate of unitisations of invest*ment trusts. The open-ended* nature of unit trusts allows *investors* to sell their holdings at net asset value.

Mr Walls pointed out that remarkably the discounts had widened considerably over the past few months despite markets in some areas of the world reaching record levels. He claimed that if markets were suddenly to fall the discounts could be even wider. He said: "Corporate aggressors could have a chance of stepping in."

Hermes, the pension fund manager, has criticised investment trusts for not tackling the discount problem. It claimed many boards of trusts did not exert sufficient independence from the investment companies *that managed the money.*

However, if there is to be a *big restructuring of the invest*ment industry it will come at a *price. Speaking at the annual* meeting of the Flemings Far Eastern Investment Trust *this* week, Lord Mark Fitzalan Howard, *chairman of* Flemings, admitted the costs of the restructuring could reach £2.5 million — representing 0.5 per cent of net asset value. Shareholders questioned the board about the costs, and the capital gains tax implications of the deal. Flemings said there would be extra tax to pay.

No easy way to transfer capital sums

Jill Insley finds building societies are not as good as other savings institutions when regular movement of capital is required

W*hen elderly people sell up* their homes and move into a residential or *nursing home,* they often need to draw on their capital and assets to meet their expenses. But as one reader of *The Times* has discovered, banks and building societies are not always helpful when it comes to smoothing the process.

David Quilley has been trying to find an interest-bearing investment account that will allow his mother to transfer capital by standing order into a current account.

His mother has recently moved into a residential home and is selling her apartment. Although she has previously been able to meet her expenses *from pensions* and *investment income,* the extra cost of the residential home *means she now needs to draw on the* money raised through the sale of her *home to fund the fees of £500 a month.*

Mr Quilley says his mother has a *current account with Alliance & Leicester Giro,* but the bank's investment accounts do not offer a standing order service. He said: "They have an investment account which could transfer monthly interest to her current account, but that would be insufficient for her needs.

"They have other accounts which give instant access or require 90 days' notice, but both of these require action by the investor on each occasion, and the bank is not interested in a standing request. This must be a problem for many elderly people, particularly if they are not very mobile or no longer adept at administration."

The problem encountered by Mr Quilley and his mother is common to *many banks and building societies.* Although many investment accounts *allow regular transfer of interest to* other accounts, most do not encourage the withdrawal of capital, particularly on a regular basis.

Both Barclays and Midland recommended that the money be kept in notice accounts, requiring the account holder to inform the bank in advance when money is needed. Lloyds Bank suggested its Instant Savings or Instant Gold investment accounts, on the basis that the account holder can request transfers over the telephone.

However, this would mean that Mr Quilley's mother would have the inconvenience of switching her current account from Alliance & Leicester Giro to Midland.

Chris Page, a spokesman for Lloyds, said: "The reason we don't offer standing orders and direct debits on investment accounts is to keep the cost of running the account down. This allows us to keep the interest rate on the account high."

Even products designed specifically *for the elderly,* such as National Savings Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds, *do not allow ready access* to cash. These pay a fixed rate of 7 per cent gross on investments from £500 to £50,000.

But the bonds last for five years, and anyone who wants to withdraw money early must give 60 days' notice. No interest is paid on the sum being withdrawn during that period. *Immediate withdrawals result in 90 days'* loss of interest.

However, the Halifax allows account holders to set up standing orders to transfer capital from its investment accounts into its own current account. The Halifax Liquid Gold account pays 4.3 per cent gross on balances of £25,000 or more.

Kleinwort Benson's High Interest Cheque Account is more flexible, allowing account holders with balances of £5,000 or more to set up monthly transfers for a fixed amount into any current account.

It also pays a higher interest rate of 6 per cent gross. The account incurs no *loss of interest for withdrawals, has no* minimum notice period, and no *charges for credits, withdrawals or* direct debits.

Charles Levett-Scrivener of Towry Law, the retirement specialist financial adviser, said that the capital could disappear quite quickly if too much is withdrawn each month. He suggests that, depending on her state of health, Mr Quilley's mother should consider using part of her capital to buy an impaired life annuity.

Annuities pay a regular, predetermined income to the investor for the rest of his or her life. The rate of income is influenced by prevailing interest rates when the annuity is bought. As interest rates are quite low now, it is not a good time to buy annuities.

However, impaired life annuities pay a higher rate of income than normal annuities on the basis that an existing illness or condition is expected to shorten the annuitant's lifespan.

If she is in a good state of health, Mr Quilley's mother could buy a with-profits bond. This is a lump sum investment into a life office's with-profits fund. It increases in value once a year when bonuses are declared, and, once a bonus has been allocated, it cannot be taken away or reduced.

An investor can draw income from a *bond* by cashing in part on demand. Up to 5 per cent of the sum originally invested can be encashed as income free of basic rate tax each year for 20 years. The 5 per cent is known as a cumulative allowance, which means that, if part or all of the allowance is not used, it can be transferred to another tax year.

Once again there are possible drawbacks. Some insurance companies reserve the right to apply a penalty if the investor withdraws a large amount when market conditions are poor.

Axa, for example, applies an exit penalty to withdrawals of *7.5 per cent* or more of the initial investment.

If the investor dies, the insurance company pays out the current market *value of the bond* to the investor's estate. But Mr Levett-Scrivener points out that, if this happens within the first few years, the bond's value will be reduced by set-up charges. "Taking a medium-term view, a with-profits bond should outperform the deposits."

Long-term care, page 33

PETER TRIEVNOR

The high cost of living in residential accommodation has forced many elderly people to eat into the capital that they had intended to bequeath

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The free market and gazumpers

COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Personal Finance Deputy Editor

The British obsession with home ownership and a national shortage of land and housing means gazumping is inevitable. It becomes widespread when, as at present, demand for homes outstrips supply. In a free market, purchasers are entitled to submit rival bids, and the moral dilemma of whether to reject the lower offer rests with the seller.

It is ironic that government proposals to stamp out gazumping will have little effect on London and the South East, where the practice is rampant. Property prices in the capital are so high that the threat of having to pay a few hundred pounds more for the unsuccessful purchaser's legal fees will be insufficient to discourage most rival bidders.

If the Government really wanted to help housebuyers, it should resist the temptation to rush out populist legislation on the issue of gazumping alone and instead examine the whole system of how homes are bought and sold in this country.

Currently, the cost of searches by local authorities is not standardised, nor is there any pressure on authorities to process searches efficiently. Lenders are also guilty of contributing to delays: banks and building societies frequently take two weeks to arrange a a valuation.

However, buyers and sellers themselves are also to blame. In the process of negotiating a sale or purchase people allow their better nature to be distorted by greed. Only wide-ranging legislation will change the process in which the buyer plays a game of bluff in the hope of a higher offer and the seller schemes to force the price down.

Policies poser

TRADING secondhand endowment policies has collectively earned market makers million of pounds over the past decade. Voices both within and outside the industry are now warning that individual savers are overpaying, perhaps by 20 per cent.

It has been a sellers' market. A finite number of policies is available and carpetbaggers have bought with-profits endowment policies of mutual life companies hoping for a windfall as well as growth.

Some market-makers have raised their prices accordingly. Individuals who buy at auction often pay the highest prices, because they have little information on which to judge the worth of the endowment they are buying.

Investors are given the maturity value of a fund based on bonus rates remaining constant. However, life companies hint that rates could fall again this year. The Personal Investment Authority, which is reviewing the situation, needs to ensure investors are given a range of predictions, not just optimistic forecasts.

Watch the small print in inheritance tax plans

Clare Stewart reports on a Revenue victory that may have implications for those passing on estates

Anyone hoping to pass on a valuable property or estate as part of inheritance tax planning needs to look very carefully at the small print of the arrangement after the Inland Revenue's successful closure of a loophole in inheritance tax legislation.

The Court of Appeal ruling on a case brought by the heirs of Lady Ingram this week affects those with large estates.

At the centre of the case is the arrangement by which the late Lady Ingram transferred the freehold of her family estate in Berkshire to a trust of which her children and grandchildren were beneficiaries. Lady Ingram leased the property back and lived at the house rent-free until her death in 1989.

It was hoped that inheritance tax would be paid not on the freehold value of the house but on the lower value of the remaining lease at the time of Lady Ingram's death.

This was disputed by the Inland Revenue on the grounds that Lady Ingram continued to benefit from living in the property.

According to the 1986 Finance Act, where a donor continues to enjoy some benefit from the asset it is defined as "a gift with reservation" and therefore subject to inheritance tax.

In 1995 a High Court ruling supported the Ingram family's claim, but this was overturned last week by the Court of Appeal, leaving the Ingram estate facing a tax bill that could run to several hundred thousand pounds.

Charles Russell, the firm of solicitors representing the Ingram family, is now considering its next move. "We may not make a decision until September," said Catriona Syed, a partner at Charles Russell. An appeal to the House of Lords is possible.

Quite how many people could be caught out if the Inland Revenue view prevails is unclear. Ms Syed estimates it could be "thousands" though other tax advisers are more cautious.

"Only the very brave did such a scheme because it is very chancy," said Russ Stanfield, private client tax partner at Price Waterhouse in London. "We would advise it only as a last resort because it is not something you can test before the donor dies, which might be some time in the future."

There are a number of options to consider if families want to pass on property as a means of reducing the inheritance tax liability. These include parents handing over the freehold and moving out, alternatively leasing back the house at a market rent.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, tax partner at Chantrey Vellacott, gave warning that it is important that the rent is not pitched too low or you could be seen to have retained some benefit. "It may mean that you err on the side of caution and pay too much rent."

Other alternatives proposed by Catriona Syed include parents retaining the freehold but granting a 999-year lease to their children that takes effect in perhaps 15 or 20 years. As the years pass the value of the parents' lease diminishes, as the value of the freehold is effectively passed to the children. Ms Syed also suggests that taking out life assurance to offset the estimated tax bill could also be considered.

But all of these routes can be complicated. The received wisdom from a number of advisers is to think carefully about using the family home in any way as a means of cutting inheritance tax liabilities.

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Gazumped twice by vendors 'who don't do that sort of thing'

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Simon Evans and Louise Coxon thought that being gazumped on one property was bad enough. Weeks later, however, they were gazumped on a second.

Mr Evans and Ms Coxon went to view a two-bedroom warehouse conversion in Fulham, west London, a month ago. Their estate agent had given them the details but it was the owner of the house who actually showed them round. They liked the property so much they immediately offered the asking price of £215,000, which the seller accepted.

Mr Evans said: "We were first-time buyers and had our mortgage agreed. I said I didn't want to be gazumped or go through any wrangling and the seller said he wasn't interested in that sort of thing either".

But nine days later, Mr Evans' solicitor received a letter saying the seller was not going ahead because he had accepted a higher offer of £220,000. The offer had come through the same estate agent, making Mr Evans suspect that the seller had come under heavy pressure from him.

Mr Evans volunteered to match the higher offer but the seller refused, saying Mr Evans's rival was a cash buyer.

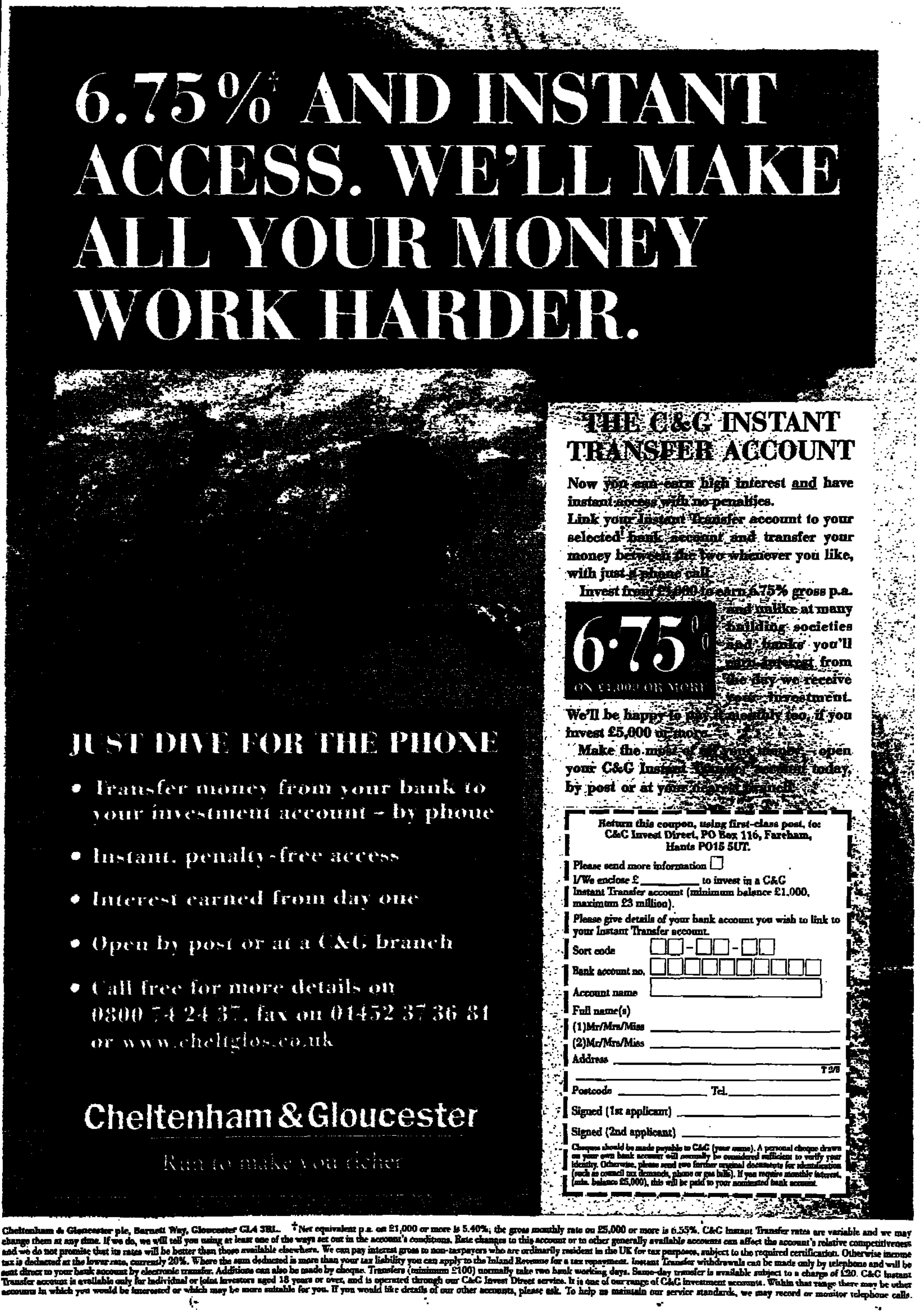
Forced back to square one, the couple went to see the house next door in the same development, on offer with a different agent. Mr Evans said: "The agents claimed they never encouraged gazumping and said that, once they had the offer, that was that." The couple offered the £210,000 asking price, which was accepted.

But a week later, when his solicitor had still not received the contract, Mr Evans rang up the agent and discovered that another buyer had offered £3,000 more. "The agent went all quiet. His explanation was that he was under an obligation to put forward other viewers." Mr Evans's solicitor advised him to offer an extra £1,000, which the seller accepted. As *The Times* went to press, the deal on the second house was still going through. The couple had not incurred valuation fees on the abortive first property because they were gazumped so quickly.

But they will have to pay a proportion of the solicitors' fees, which would have been £450 if the deal had gone through. This is on top of the cost of buying the second property. According to the Woolwich's recent survey on moving costs, these could add up to about £3,500 (see page 27).

Mr Evans condemned the system of housebuying in England and Wales. "The whole system stinks. It's amazing how anyone manages to buy a house at all. Once an offer is accepted, no one should be allowed to pull out without financial penalty and that should be proportionate to the value of the property."

SARA MCCONNELL



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Nathan Yates gives a timely reminder of a little task for the holidays

Self-assessment deadline is nearer than you think

The initial deadline for the return of self-assessment forms is looming and the Inland Revenue has been conducting a high-profile advertising campaign to remind taxpayers. If you want the Inland Revenue to calculate your tax for you, you must send back your completed form by September 30.

Once the deadline is passed, you will have to do your own calculations, or pay an accountant to do them for you, if you are to be sure of obtaining a correct tax bill on time. And if you wait beyond January 31, 1998, you will face an automatic £100 fine.

The best way to avoid these pitfalls is to get to grips with the self-assessment form well before the deadline. You may also find when you begin sorting out your affairs that you need extra pages, for example for self-employment, which you need to request from the Inland Revenue. These will take a couple of days to arrive.

The first step in tackling the documents is to assemble all the necessary records, which include evidence of any claims made. In addition, P60 statements of income, P11D forms relating to employee benefits and bank statements showing interest on deposit accounts must all be filed.

For many of the 8.5 million taxpayers affected by self-assessment, this will be the most time-consuming part of the process. Accurate records are particularly important for those with complex affairs such as the self-employed, and it is worth bearing in mind that the Revenue will be auditing 8,000 tax returns this year at random. Those failing to keep records in a business-like way will be charged interest and surcharges and may be fined.

If some of your records are missing, you will need to find replacements. You have been legally required to keep accounts since April 6, 1996, and even when the form is completed, you must not throw any of these details away. The Revenue policy on self-assessment is "process now, check later", and an inquiry into your 1996-97 return could be opened without particular cause for suspicion at any point before February 1999. You are legally required to keep records until January 31, 1999, or until January 31, 2003, if you run a business or have income from letting property.

Once your accounts have been assembled, the next step is to make sure your form includes all the relevant pages. The basic form has only eight pages, but this will only cover those with straightforward affairs such as pensioners with few investments. Most people will need supplementary pages. For example, an employee will need an extra two pages, and extra pages must also be completed if you make capital gains or losses, receive dividends or inherit money. If you have not received the additional pages you need, they can be obtained by calling the Inland Revenue order line on 0645 000 404.

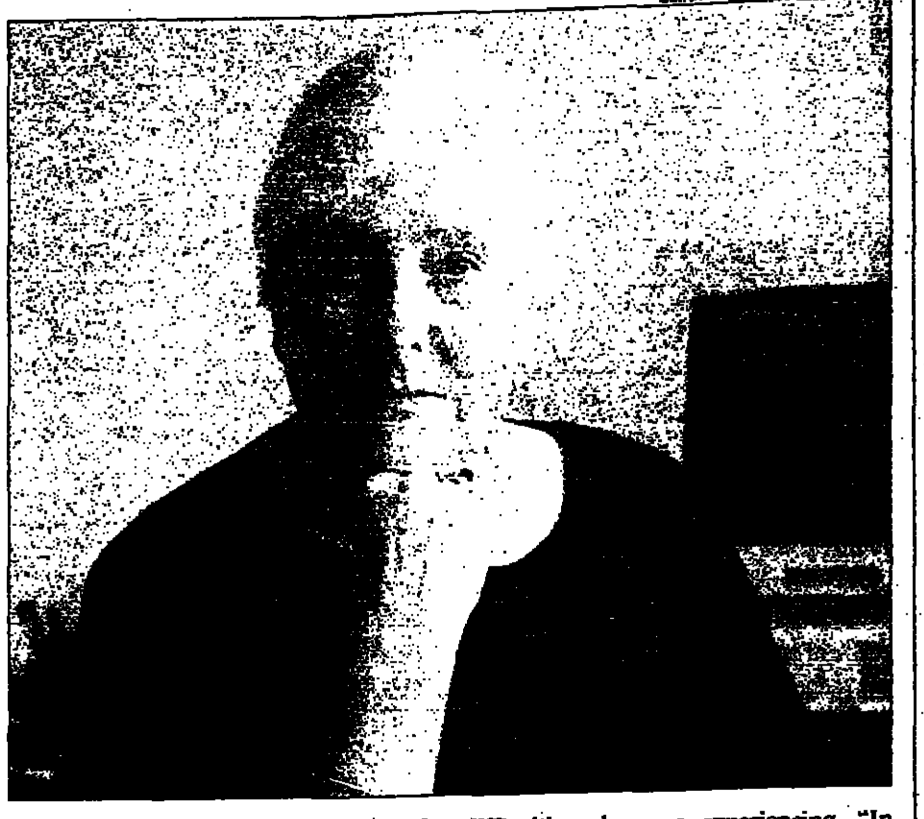
In order to minimise the likelihood of being selected for inspection, avoid taking short cuts when filling in the form. Do not leave any parts of the form blank. If you are forced into making an estimate, make sure you tick the box indicating that you have done so, and make your means of arriving at the figure as plain as possible. Remember that incomplete returns will not be accepted. If you had benefits in kind such as a company car, you will need to put down a figure for your taxable benefit. It is no longer sufficient to put down "per form P11D" or "as PAYE".

If a large portion of your liability is not paid as you earn, it could be a good idea to start putting cash aside so that you can settle your account for 1997-98 next January 31. Those unable to settle on time will face interest charges on their balance, and those still unable to pay 1997-98 tax by February 28, 1999, will be liable for an automatic 5 per cent surcharge.

If you have any queries about self-assessment, you can ring your own tax office during office hours at the number printed on the form. In the evenings or at the weekend you can call the Inland Revenue helpline on 0645 000 444. If your affairs are highly complicated, it may be advisable to seek help from an accountant, and the Chartered Institute of Taxation and the Institute of Chartered Accountants can provide lists of their members. Help with self-assessment is also available from the Tax Team (0800 393 520), with fees starting at £75, and from the Royal Bank of Scotland TaxCheck Service, which charges a minimum of £95.

My hero, the Taxman

SIMON HADLEY/ASSIGNMENTS



BARBARA ALCOCK filled in her self-assessment form early and has already received a refund for the tax which she overpaid last year.

She only left one box blank, and wrote a letter to her tax inspector to explain the difficulties she was experiencing. "In contrast with the rather frightening image that the Inland Revenue has traditionally had, I have always found that the office was very helpful and patient with my inquiries," she said.

Conal Gregory swaps the joys of the river bank for some big catches around the salerooms

Reeling in a whopping investment

Early fishing tackle and piscatorial memorabilia is increasingly moving from dusty tackle rooms and lodges of great houses to the auction room. Fishing articles are now much sought after both by collectors and by antique dealers who sell them on to interior designers.

Reels, in highly polished hardwoods or brass or nickle-plated brass, are particularly collectable. Early fixed-spool examples, such as the Illingworth No 1 from 1905, have risen from £220 eight years ago to £600 today at auction. Condition, however, is a big factor. A rare 4½in Featherstone patent bird-cage brass reel in excellent order made £1,050 plus 15 per cent buyer's premium at Bonhams in April 1996. The same firm offers one in not such a good state on Wednesday at its Knightsbridge, London, sale with a £350 estimate.

A Hardy Mark II alloy trout fly reel can make £150, up from £44-£90 in 1989. Similarly, a Hardy salmon reel from 1905 has risen from £55 nine years ago to between £200 and £250 today. There is a revival in centrepin reels and old split-cane rods, says Christopher Hewitt of Bonhams. An Allcock Aerial 3½in centrepin reel from the 1920s makes £100-£120, up from £33-£50 in 1988. Even more dramatic, a 3in six-spoke ebonite drum reel by the same maker has risen from £95 eight years ago to £500 plus at auction and £1,200 with a dealer.

In some cases demand has pushed bids to more than double the reserve price. Phillips secured £4,600 in late July for a Hardy brass first pattern reel, although its estimate had been £2,000-£2,500.

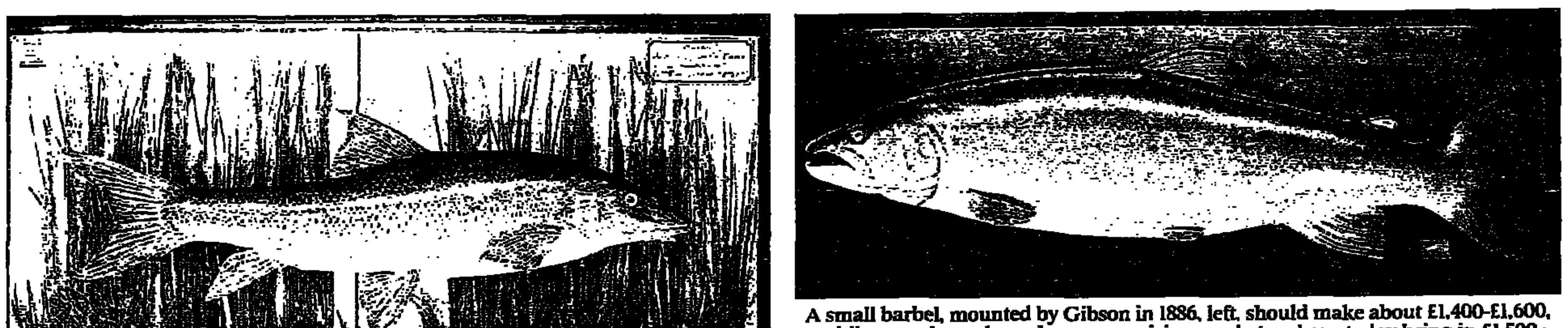
In rods, a 7ft "Little Gem" trout rod, by Allcocks, can make £120. A classic carp rod, such as by A. B. James & Son and designed by Richard Walker, the British champion fisherman, has risen from £80 in 1988 to £700 today.

Carved and painted fish, mounted on board, are rising. Christie's in Glasgow sold a 47in long salmon dated 1927 for £805 in April. Prices can reach £1,500.

Cased fish depend on two factors for their price: size (small ones are preferred by interior decorators for kitchens and bathrooms) and the name of the taxidermist. The detail of the fisherman, weight, date and location are crucial to the provenance and, hence, value. Two examples from Wednesday's sale at Bonhams illustrate the diversity in price, both of a cased barbel: an 1866 fish of 11lb is expected to realise £300-£500 but a smaller, below 2lbs, 1886 one mounted among a background of reeds, should make £1,400-£1,600. They were preserved by the firms of Cole and Gibson respectively. But *the* company to look for is J. Cooper & Sons of London.

Old spoons, Devon minnows and other lures that have survived encounters with sunken logs and river-bottom boulders is the area tipped to grow. Little has been published about spinners but the *Best of British Baits* by Chris Sandford is expected to send prices upward. Until recently auctions included lures in general lots but interesting examples can now fetch £150 apiece.

Books on fishing, particularly with good illustrations, can be delightful. Couch's *A History of the Fishes of the British Islands* (1877) in four volumes made £400 at Phillips last week, while the fifth edition in full hide from 1802 of T. Best's *A Concise Treatise on the Art of Angling* secured £550. Finally, if you extend fishing interests to art, three painters of style are sought after: Geddes, Rolfe and Russell. Good still life pictures of salmon or trout by John Russell from 1870-80 made £960-£1,550 five years ago. Today prices have moved to £3,000-£4,500 — a good catch indeed.



A small barbel, mounted by Gibson in 1886, left, should make about £1,400-£1,600, while carved wooden salmon are a rising market and can today bring in £1,500

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هكذا من الأصل

Gavin Lumsden says fee-based university education will make saving even more vital for parents

Learning to a different tune

Paying for children's education used to be the preserve of wealthy parents. Last week the Government shattered the remains of that illusion when it announced it was considering the abolition of student grants and the levying of university fees on students.

If implemented, these two measures will force millions of parents to start additional financial planning.

According to Sir Ron Dearing, who led the Government's higher education review which recommended the changes, the cost of a three-year degree course is set to rise to £8,000. Annual living expenses for a student living away from home are about £5,000. A third of all school leavers are expected to go on to college or university this year, a proportion which the Government plans to increase substantially.

The Government is proposing that all these students rely on low-cost loans instead of the awkward mixture of grants, loans and overdrafts which currently makes up their finances. Many parents, however, will want to get involved rather than see their children graduate deep in debt.

Most students already rely on their parents to survive through college. According to a survey by Barclays Bank, 37 per cent of the 875,000 students in higher education cite their parents as their main source of income with nearly three quarters receiving some money from parents.

Meanwhile, the spectre of Government reform is also hovering over the parents who send 600,000 children to be privately educated. Private, or independent, schools benefit from significant tax concessions as a result of their charitable status. The Labour Party, which pioneered the comprehensive education system in this country, has always been uneasy with what it views as a subsidy for private education.

It has considered withdrawing this status, a move that would increase school fees by an average 6.5 per cent, according to the Friends of Independent Schools, a pressure group. Some financial advisers fear the Government could go further and levy VAT on school fees. Product providers are not actively responding to either of these threats although they admit it would require parents to salt even more money away. They are hoping that new Labour, which has diluted its commitment to reform in its past two election manifestos, will not proceed.

Whatever the outcome, there is little doubt that many parents are going to be faced with an educational bill in future. However, there is no mystique to how you prepare for this. As with any kind of financial planning, the earlier you start to plan, the better your chances of building up a useful sum of capital. Peter Harrison of Whitehead and Partners, a Manchester adviser specialising in school fees planning, recommends people stick with the basic investment principles: decide what level of risk you are willing to take and then choose a product that gives you the most flexibility.

Charles Levett-Scrivener, associate director at Towry Law, an independent financial adviser, effectively agrees. Planning years in advance when your children are still young is sensible, he says, but means you will be trying to save at a time when mortgages and other financial commitments mean the family budget is at its tightest.

If you do not want to risk your money on the stock market, or if you have only a few years to save, a building society account is probably your best option. However, if you are planning early both our advisers recommend the much-maligned with-profits endowment policies. These combine investment in the stock market with life and insurance cover, both of which the parents will need. Equity investment provides better long-term returns which should build up a lump sum by the time the children enrol at college.

With-profits policies also smooth out the volatile performance of the stock market so that even if your policy ends in a bad year all is not lost. At the same time these endowments contain waiver of premium and critical illness options which will ensure the premiums are paid should you fall sick or lose your job.

With-profits endowments got a deservedly bad reputation a few years ago when it was revealed how much insurance companies took in charges, particularly in the first few years. However, companies such as Standard Life, Scottish Widows, General Accident and Commercial Union now spread their charges over the length of the contract, which means you will get more of your money back if you do cash in the policy early.

Personal equity plans lack the smoothing facility of endowments. Their use of an annual management charge (typically 1-1.5 per cent) related to the value of the funds means they are not necessarily cheaper than endowments in the long term. However, the combination of equity growth in a tax-free environment is very attractive if you are prepared to rise and fall with the stock market. SFIA Investment Advisers offer a Pep Education Plan starting at £50 a month linked to six investment funds run by established management groups Foreign & Colonial, Henderson Investors and Mercury Asset Management. It also includes life and critical illness cover.

If you have a Pep earmarked for a pension or a mortgage, or simply want to save more than £6,000 a year, you can still put your money into a unit or investment trust.

Your money will not be sheltered from income and capital gains tax, but will benefit from being invested in a basket of stocks and shares. Putting £50 a month into Fidelity's UK Growth Trust since March 1980, for example, you would now have just over £8,000.

MICHAEL POWELL

Music involves extra fees at most schools and to reach the top level the burden on parents can be very high

Why advisers aren't with the Woolwich

Jill Insley seeks advice on a guaranteed growth bond

HIT OR MISS

Virtually every bank, building society and insurance company has issued some sort of investment bond in the past few months. *MoneyFacts*, the monthly guide to investment rates, currently lists more than 100 different bonds. So any new product hitting the shelves has to be very special to attract investors.

Woolwich Life's guaranteed growth bond, on sale through Woolwich branches, promises customers a fixed rate of growth over five years to protect investors' money against interest rate changes or stock market fluctuations.

The bond offers three rates of interest. Investments of £5,000 to £14,999 will earn 5.8 per cent net a year, £15,000 to £49,999 will earn 5.9 per cent net a year, while sums in excess of £50,000 will earn 6 per cent net. The interest is compounded, which means that it is added to the investor's money and earns interest at the same rate as the original investment. After five years, the Woolwich calculates £10,000 will grow to £13,256, while a £50,000 investment will return a total of £66,911. It sounds too good to be true.

But the return is not quite good enough to persuade independent financial advisers to recommend it. Douglas Gardner, of Thomson Financial Planning Consultants, said: "It's the type of vehicle we would advise clients to buy, but this one is not at all competitive. We would be more likely to use a bond from Hambros Assured, which is currently paying a compounded rate of 37.65 per cent over five years on £50,0000." This would produce £68,825 over five years, nearly £2,000 more than the Woolwich bond.

Mr Gardner says he often uses guaranteed growth bonds in inheritance tax plans. Parents can "lend" money to a trust set up on behalf of their children. Any investment returns earned by this money while held in trust automatically belongs to the children rather than the parents, avoiding inheritance tax when the parents die.

Returns from these bonds are paid net of basic-rate income tax. Higher-rate tax payers are liable for extra tax on their returns. They should consider more tax-efficient investments before buying this type of product. Likewise, the bonds are not suitable for non-taxpayers, who are unable to reclaim the basic-rate tax already paid on the bond.

Martin Mullany, of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, would not recommend a guaranteed growth bond unless the investor has used up his annual capital gains tax allowance. Even then, he is more likely to recommend zero-dividend preference shares of a split-capital investment trust. Zeros are low-risk shares offering a fixed capital return when the investment trust is wound up.

Anyone who exceeds their CGT allowance in the year when the trust winds up would be liable for tax. But Mr Mullany says the returns on some zeros will be better than those paid by the bond even after tax. He recommends the Gartmore Shared Junior Zero Dividend Preference share, paying 7.7 per cent a year, compounded over the next four years. After basic rate tax this reduces to 6.9 per cent a year, still 0.9 per cent higher than the Woolwich bond's best rate.

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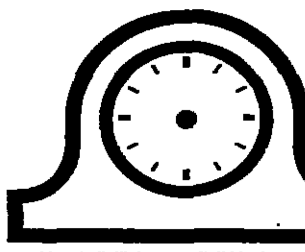

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Nathan Yates says foresight over currencies can improve your buying power

Buy forward for the holidays

SIMON BRUTY/ALLSPORT USA

Next season's skiing holiday may seem a long way away, but experts say it is worth buying your dollars or francs while the pound is high

With sterling gaining spectacularly in strength against the franc and the mark, is it worth buying currency now for holidays later? The pound is trading at about three marks for the first time since 1991 but some economists are now suggesting that sterling's strength will be transitory.

Those planning several foreign holidays in six to nine month's time *can take advantage of favourable* exchange rates now. However, they are faced with the dilemma of losing interest on their cash once it has been changed. While banks daily and collectively trade hundreds of millions of pounds on the foreign exchange markets, individual savers rarely hedge against movements in currencies. There are few facilities available for those who do.

Leading economists say the *pound's current value is unsustainable.* "Sterling has reached heady levels," said Patrick Moon, an economist with Lloyds TSB. "It is extremely volatile, and it might fall sharply. If people are trying to be prudent, they should change their holiday money now."

The most secure way to carry money is foreign currency travellers' cheques. These can be bought from most high street banks and travel agents, *and are less vulnerable* to theft. Each cheque must be signed once at the point of purchase and again when it is cashed.

Barclays this week provided an extra incentive to use foreign currency travellers' cheques by halving its commission charges from 2 to 1 per cent. Under the terms of this special offer, which lasts until the end of September, Barclays will also buy back travellers' cheques at no charge. *At NatWest, commission on foreign* currency travellers' cheques is charged at 0.5 per cent or a minimum of £3.

Foreign currency bank accounts can also be used to make the best of exchange rates. Most high street banks allow you to open an account in any main currency. Francs, marks or dollars may be stored as in a normal bank account, and withdrawn at a favourable time.

Foreign currency accounts are particularly useful for those who have overseas property or earnings. Account holders can avoid losing out in currency exchanges each time they make a transaction. Some banks, such as Barclays and NatWest, allow you to escape withdrawal charges if you debit your account electronically, for example when paying electricity bills. If you have a mortgage or other bills to pay in France, it may well be *advisable to store up francs in* a foreign currency account now.

However, these accounts are less suitable for those wishing to lodge small amounts for a short period. Holidaymakers should take note that the small print penalties of foreign currency accounts may cancel out exchange-rate gains. Many of these accounts require minimum balances which are *beyond holiday budgets. At Barclays,* the minimum balance is $3,000 or its equivalent, and at Lloyds TSB the minimum is £5,000.

Midland's foreign currency current account is unusual in having no minimum balance requirement. But customers here face half-yearly charges of £35, a charge of £1.20 for every cheque used and a 1 per cent fee each time you pay in or withdraw money. This could cancel out small *gains made on exchange rates.*

In addition, interest on a foreign currency balance is based on interest rates in the country concerned. In the case of many popular holiday destinations, these are not favourable to savers. Both NatWest and Midland pay a paltry 0.125 per cent on accounts held in French francs.

Investors pay '20% too much for endowments'

Private investors are being overcharged by between 15 and 20 per cent when they buy secondhand endowment policies from life assurance companies, it was claimed this week. Actuaries and traders united to condemn intermediaries whom they claimed were guilty of overpricing with-profit policies.

But some companies that buy and sell endowments reacted angrily to suggestions that they were exploiting the popularity of secondhand policies.

Richard Ross, chairman of AAP, the trade association of market-makers, said: "The current price *reflects the strength* of demand and the weakness of supply. Whether or not the market is too high is a matter of personal opinion. Market-makers give an execution-only service and provide no advice, leaving the investor to *make* his own, usually informed assessment, or rely on a financial adviser." Nevertheless, the Institute of Actuaries said overpricing in the £240 million traded endowment industry was common and individual savers had no way of calculating policy values.

> You need to be able to take a view on what interest and bonus rates will do in the future

The IoA called on watchdogs to tighten up regulation to protect consumers. It wrote to Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, asking for immediate action.

Demand for secondhand endowment policies has grown in the past five years, *particularly those issued* by life companies rumoured to be bid targets. These include Friends Provident, Scottish Widows and Scottish Provident. Rather than surrender a policy, the original investor can sell an endowment to a market-maker who finds a buyer. Market-makers only trade with-profits endowments on an execution-only service. Policies change hands for £9,000 on average.

Peter McGurk, a partner in Barnett Waddingham, the London consulting actuary, and a member of the IoA said: "About £20 million worth of these policies are being sold each year, many of them at 20 per cent or more above what we estimate to be a fair price. We would like the PIA to require life companies to give fairer projections of what the maturity value of the policy is likely to be."

The PIA is currently conducting a review of the industry. Some observers would like the Lautro standardised growth forecasts of 5 and 10 per cent pa to be applied to policies when forecasting future growth. They say this would help investors to calculate whether they are overpaying for a policy. But Max Rosen, director of Securitised Endowment Contracts said investors were being charged "between 15 and 20 per cent more" than the contracts were worth.

He said: "We would like investors to be given as much information as possible so that they can judge whether they are getting a lousy deal. We give potential buyers details of how their policy will perform if bonus rates remain the same, are cut, or are not paid in future years."

Most predictions of a policy's value are based on average discount rate, *worked out by assuming* current bonus rates stay the same for the policy's life. Both Mr Rosen and the IoA say this misleads. "You need to take a view on what interest and bonus rates will do in future and may need an adviser's help," Mr Rosen said.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Fight for windfalls intensified by carpetbagging

Caroline Merrell says banks are losing out as savers switch cash

Many of the UK's biggest banks and building societies this week moved to increase their interest rates after last month's rise in the base rate.

The rises for savers were in many cases higher than the 0.25 per cent rise implemented by the Bank of England.

Over the next few months, the battle for billions of pounds worth of savings promises to hot up in earnest, as savers with the converted building societies switch their money in the hope of getting another windfall.

The societies committed to remaining mutual have the opportunity to prove their claim that they can offer enhanced savings rates and lower mortgage rates.

They argue that, as they do not have to pay shareholder dividends, they can afford to offer more competitive products. According to the Building Societies Association in the first quarter of 1997, the savings rates with committed mutuals were on average 0.68 per cent higher than those of converting institutions.

Among those to increase rates was the newly converted Halifax, and the Nationwide, now the UK's biggest building society. Both put up their rates for savers by up to 0.4 per cent. Despite Nationwide's increase in rates, its doors are still closed to new savers, because it has been overwhelmed by "carpetbaggers" hoping to get a possible share or cash windfall. The Nationwide will not say when it plans to reopen its doors. A spokesman said that it could be two weeks or less. He added: "It depends how long it takes to deal with the backlog of applications."

The fight for the savings of the nation has been intensified by the latest summer sport of "carpetbagging" — moving cash around in order to benefit from any possible windfall in the event of a takeover or conversion.

For many savers moving their money from one of the newly converted societies, such as the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich, to another mutual society is a good bet — they can benefit from better rates as well as any possible windfall.

This liquidity in the savings market was reflected in the latest figures from the Building Societies Association. Nearly £2 billion was switched in to the societies in June; £1.3 billion was moved in to the Nationwide, which was then at the centre of speculation about conversion.

Losers in the battle for the UK savings market include the Abbey National, which converted to a bank eight years ago. This week it reported that savers had switched £300 million from its accounts.

The Abbey and the other banks must be hoping that the recent defeat of Michael Hardern, a freelance butler, and another four pro-conversion candidates who were hoping to get on to the Nationwide board to force it to convert, will mark the end of speculation activity.

However, this week strong *bid rumours* began to circulate around the Birmingham Midshires, which is also closed to new customers. A value of around £650 million has been put on the society which will pay a windfall of around £750.

The savings rate rises mean that, on an average balance of £3,000, the Halifax will now pay 3.7 per cent interest on its instant access account. The equivalent amount on instant access in the Nationwide will earn 3.5 per cent interest.

However, Nationwide's Invest Direct postal account now pays 6.6 per cent on balances of £3,000. Halifax does not offer a similar account. Abbey National will only pay 3.25 per cent on £3,000 on instant access.

Woolwich, which converted to a bank last month, increased its rates by only 0.25 per cent. Its instant access account will now pay 3 per cent on a balance of £3,000.

However, the best instant access rates continue to be offered by Sainsbury's and other newcomers to the banking market. Sainsbury's offers *a rate of 6.15 per cent on its* instant access account.

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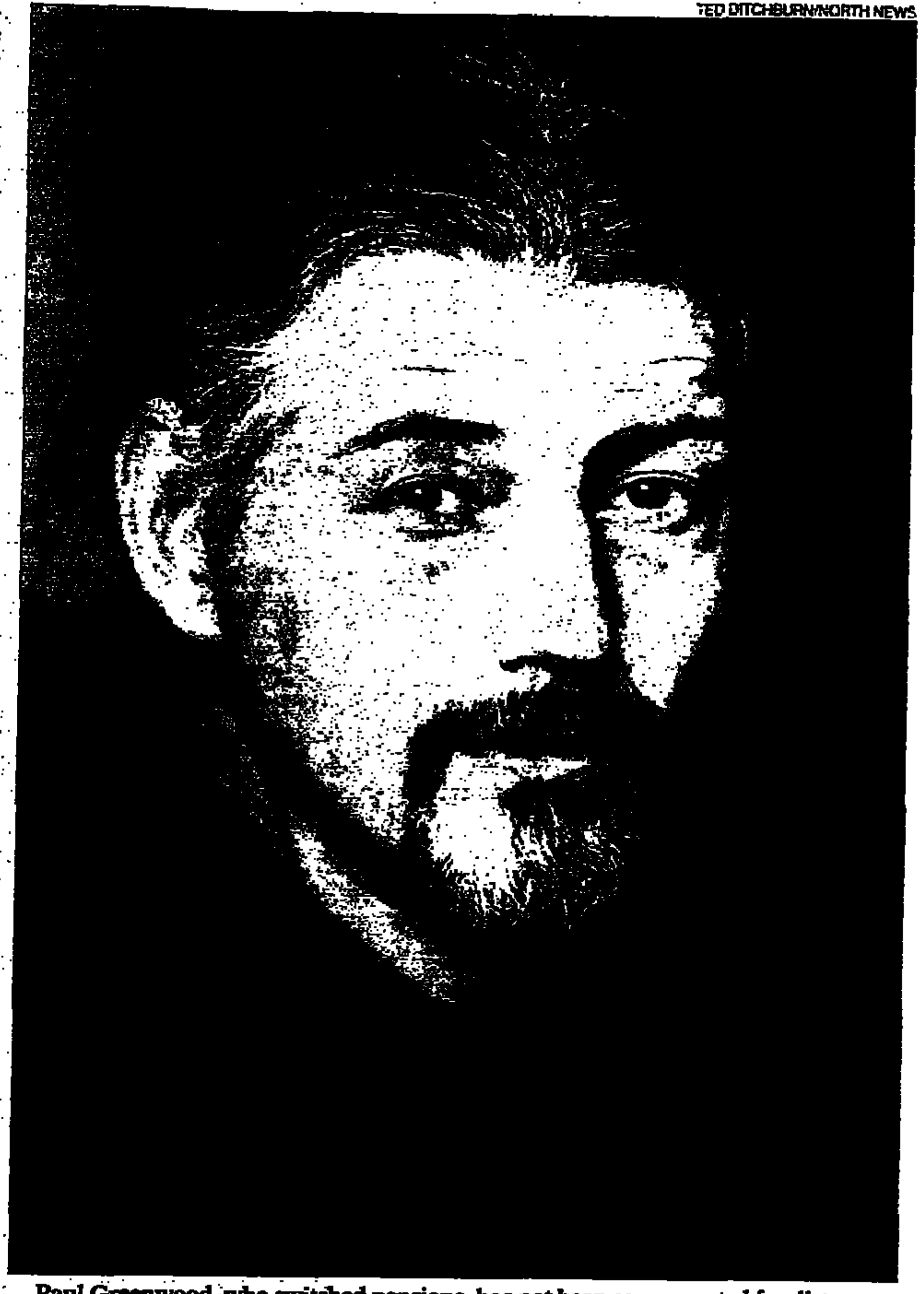
Caroline Merrell says individuals face pressure to decide over compensation

Third pension warning comes too late for some



TED DITCHBURN/NORTH NEWS

Paul Greenwood, who switched pensions, has not been compensated for distress

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, is becoming increasingly frustrated with those insurance companies dragging their heels in compensating the victims of pensions misselling. Last week, for the third time in as many weeks, she attacked the industry, warning that, if companies had not made satisfactory progress on compensating victims by the autumn, she would take tough action.

She has already strongly criticised Legal & General and Sedgwick over their attitude to compensation. Mrs Liddell also voiced concern that some companies were putting clients under "unacceptable pressure" to settle.

"I am worried about reports I have that some individuals are being put under unacceptable pressure to settle deals they are being offered by companies who mis-sold them pensions as a means of reducing their statistics," she said.

Under the Financial Services Act, Mrs Liddell has the power to stop companies trading. "I will rule nothing out. That means I will take account of the powers I already have. And, if new powers are required, I will not hesitate to seek a means of acquiring those new powers," she said. Only the regulating bodies such as the Personal Investment Authority and the Securities and Investment Board can fine companies.

However, Mrs Liddell's warning comes too late for some of the victims of the hard-sell tactics adopted by companies in the late Eighties and early Nineties. For instance, like many other local authority workers, Paul Greenwood was encouraged by a life insurance salesman to leave the local authority scheme to take out a personal pension. He said: "There was a lot of government advertising around saying that it was a good thing to do."

The salesman from Target Life was visiting everyone in his department. Mr Greenwood was encouraged to leave the superannuation scheme to invest in a £50 a month pension. Target Life was subsequently sold to Hill Samuel, the merchant banking arm of Lloyds TSB. After taking out the pension in 1989, Mr Greenwood then retired due to ill health in 1992. He said: "After a five-year struggle during which I remained unemployed due to health problems, I managed to obtain a deal last year, in October to be precise, which basically involved being returned to the local government superannuation scheme as if I had never left it and I received a lump sum of backdated pension and enhanced pension payments obviously denied to me for five years."

Mr Greenwood has not been compensated for distress caused by his circumstances. He said: "My dismay stems from the fact that at no time did the firm involved mention to me that I could claim for compensation."

According to Ringrose Wharton, a solicitor acting on behalf of more than 600 people who have been missold personal pensions, many of those receiving compensation payments are confused about the amounts of money they are receiving. Robert Wharton, Ringrose Wharton, said: "Anyone who gets an offer of compensation they do not understand should immediately write to the company to find out how it is worked out."

Under the terms of the regulations, those who have been missold personal pensions have four weeks with which to accept the offer of compensation or they waive their right to it. Mr Wharton claimed that many companies were sticking to this mandatory limit.

Mr Greenwood received his £10,000 offer of compensation on November 12 and was told that he had to accept the offer by December 9. He said he was given no indication about how compensation was worked out, but Hill Samuel said it would withdraw the offer if he did not accept it. He was also forced to pay tax on the lump sum. He claims that if the pension had paid as it should have been done, he would not have paid tax.

According to the Inland Revenue, the compensation paid should put the person who has been missold a personal pension back in to the position they would have been if they had not bought the product in the first place.

Hill Samuel said that it was up to the pension scheme to which Mr Greenwood was being returned to sort out the compensation sum. It also said that it would consider paying additional compensation for any distress caused on a case-by-case basis.

According to the latest figures, only 12,000 people from a possible total of 1.5 million have been compensated. Victims include many public sector workers, such as nurses, who were encouraged to leave lucrative company schemes, in favour of taking out personal pensions.

Mrs Liddell, the minister appointed by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to sort out the mess caused by the mis-selling of personal pensions, earlier this month began naming companies which were worst at sorting out compensation claims.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

Consumer credit hit record levels in June, rising by £1.28 billion, helped by windfall payouts from building societies. The increases, which reflect higher consumer borrowing, raised expectations of further interest rate rises.

☐ Mortgage lending continues to climb as Bank of England figures showed a 27 per cent annual rise in new mortgage commitments in June. Data from the British Bankers Association showed that mortgage lending was up £2.5 billion, with bank lending to individuals at the highest levels since 1991.

☐ Tighter regulation for the sale of secondhand endowment policies was called for by the Faculty & Institute of Actuaries. The group is concerned that private investors are being overcharged by more than 20 per cent.

☐ An overhaul of the way houses are bought and sold in England and Wales was announced by the Government. The aim is to simplify selling practices, to reduce the time and costs, and cut out gazumping.

☐ Recommended retail prices for a range of electrical products are to be scrapped after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. The change is intended to bring down costs for consumers by encouraging price competition and increasing the supply of goods, ranging from fridges to video recorders, to more shops.

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Caring victory for the elderly

Age Concern, the charity, has claimed victory after the Court of Appeal ruled this week that local authorities must pay all the nursing home costs of elderly people in their care whose capital has fallen below £10,000.

Age Concern had brought a test case after Sefton council on Merseyside, which was short of funding, had made 87-year-old Charlotte Blanchard pay for her own nursing home care until her savings dropped below £1,500 — the cost of a funeral.

The ruling will be welcome news for the families of elderly people who need care in a residential or nursing home where fees can be as high as £350 and £500 a week.

The judgment comes just a month after the Office of Fair Trading launched an investigation into care homes amid fears that thousands of elderly people might be getting poor value for money for their care. The OFT was also concerned that residents of these homes were being deprived of the right to manage their own finances.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said that the care home industry was worth at least £5 billion a year and catered for more than half a million residents in up to 20,000 homes.

He estimated that at least 25,000 new places would be required in homes within five years. Yet, despite its huge financial and social importance, the sector had never before been the subject of a review from the consumer's point of view.

Mr Bridgeman said: "Elderly people are amongst the most vulnerable consumers and in care homes they may be reliant upon others for all their needs. Many may not know what they can expect in terms of value for money or services."

The high cost of fees has led insurance companies to offer long-term care policies. However, these are expensive and benefits differ greatly between providers so it is often difficult to compare products.

The Government has pledged to establish a Royal Commission to look into the issue of providing nursing home care in the future, but there was no commitment made in the last Budget and any solution could be years away.

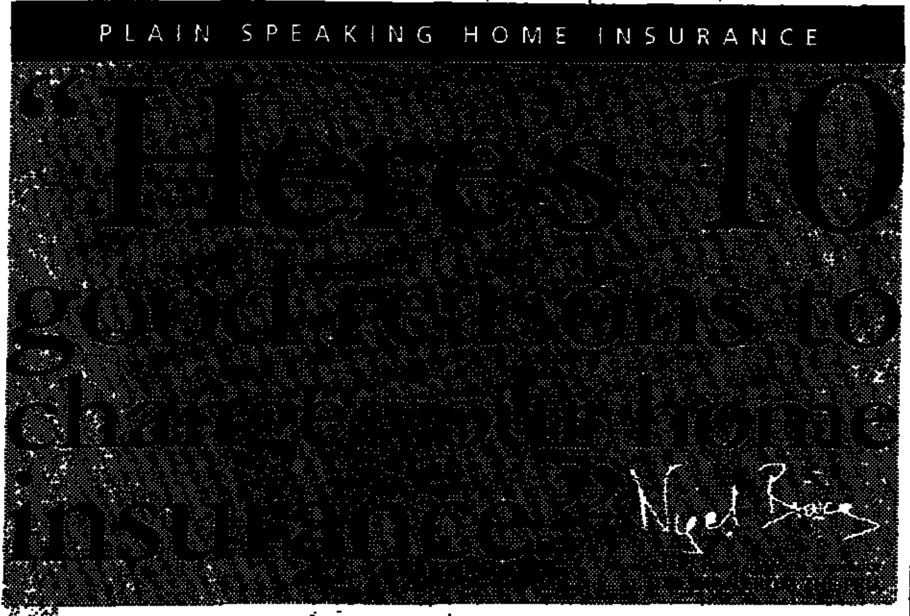
In the interim, if your resources total £10,000 to £16,000 you have to pay for a proportion of your care. For those with assets — and that includes property — worth more than £16,000, you have to foot the bill yourself.

Penny O'Nions, a GP and medical insurance broker, believes the optimum time to take out such a policy is between 65 and 70. She said: "Below age 48 the premiums are no cheaper than between 48 and 55, and over age 70 the premiums become very expensive."

She recommends that anyone without children should also take out a policy, because the care provider will be able to intervene in any disputes you might have with the home you are staying in over quality of care.

Marianne Curphey

PLAIN SPEAKING HOME INSURANCE



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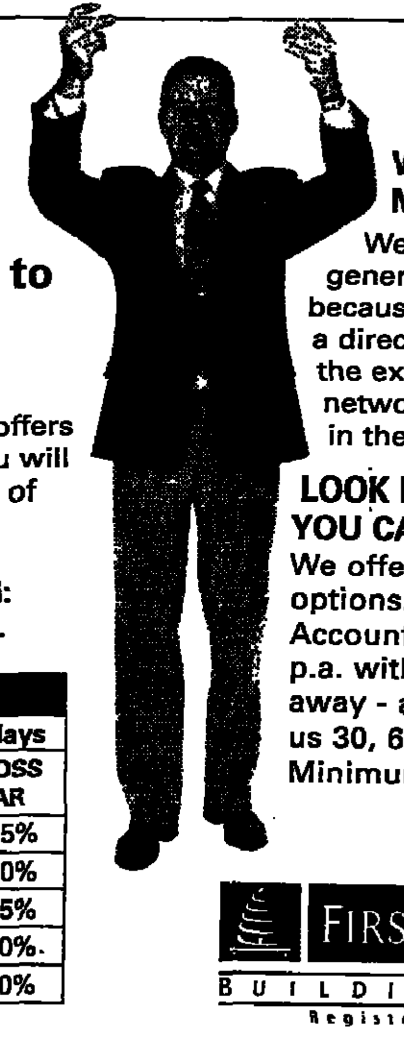

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POSTAL NOTICE ACCOUNT

NOTICE	90days	60 days	30days
BALANCE	GROSS CAR	GROSS CAR	GROSS CAR
£50,000 +	7.25%	7.10%	7.05%
£25,000 +	7.20%	7.05%	7.00%
£10,000 +	7.05%	6.85%	6.75%
£5,000 +	6.80%	6.60%	6.50%
£2,500 +	6.60%	6.40%	6.30%

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Homebuyers face higher loan rates

Bad news from the mortgage market as many companies raised rates this week. Standard variable mortgage holders will feel the changes most as banks and building societies have raised rates by at least 0.25 per cent.

Bank of Ireland's standard variable rate was put up to 8.39 per cent, while Legal and General Bank, Halifax Mortgage Services and the Portman Building Society all rose to 8.2 per cent.

Among the lenders still coming in below 8 per cent were First Direct which upped its rates to 7.7 per cent while Direct Line rose to 7.32 per cent.

The Britannia Building Society put up its rates by 0.39 per cent to 7.99 per cent, while a clutch of smaller building societies also remain below 8 per cent.

These range from Surrey-based National Counties offering a rate of 7.79 per cent to Principality Building Society in Wales with 46 branches which is offering a rage of 7.85 per cent.

Fixed rates saw smaller changes. First Direct is now offering a new fixed rate of 7.99 per cent, held until the end of September 2002, while Chelsea Building Society is offering a five-year fix at 7.59 per cent. Among the Halifax's new fixed-rate offers is a two year deal at 5.95 per cent, available for up to 95 per cent of the value and with a £195 fee. John Charcol Independent Mortgage and Financial Advisers is this week recommending Scarborough Building Society's rate of 2.95 per cent (7.7 per cent APR) fixed for a year with a fee of 0.75 per cent attached. Other offers include First Mortgage at 4.95 per cent fixed until August 1999 with a £295 fee and compulsory insurance purchase.

For discounted rates John Charcol's choice includes 7.94 per cent with a first-year rate of 6.74 per cent. The Nationwide is offering 7.85 per cent with a 1.15 per discount for the first three years, with loans available up to 90 per cent of the value.

For good offers among capped rates currently available, Yorkshire Building Society has a rate of 7.29 per cent capped at 7.99 per cent for five years. This compares with Skipton Building Society which is offering a current rate of 7.74 per cent but capped at 8.49 per cent for 10 years.

JOANNA HUNTER

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Clydesdale Bank 0800 445265	Savings	Instant	£25	6.50	Qty
Cheltenham & Gloucs 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	Inst 8	£1,000	6.75	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	*Direct Access*	*Postal*	*£10,000*	*7.00*	*Yly*
Alliance & Leic BS 0800 412214	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.00	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 956 4422	Postal Plus	30 day p	£5,000	7.15	Yly
Nottingham BS 0115 956 4422	Postal Plus	30 day p	£10,000	7.25	Yly
Irish Permanent 0800 973321	Extra Post	60 day p	£25,000	7.10	Yly
First National BS 0800 558844	90 Day Notice	90 day p	£25,000	7.20	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd/feeder acc	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F/Yly
Melton Mowbray BS 01664 63937		5 year	£1,000	7.50	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	7.45	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Prem with fdr	5 year	£9,000	7.45	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

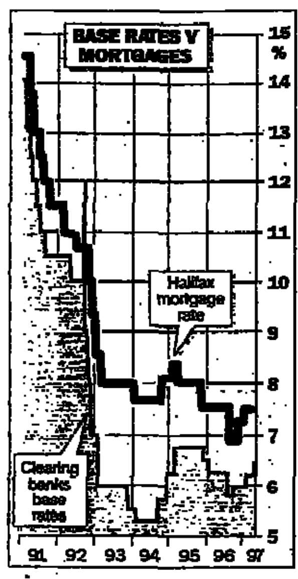
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

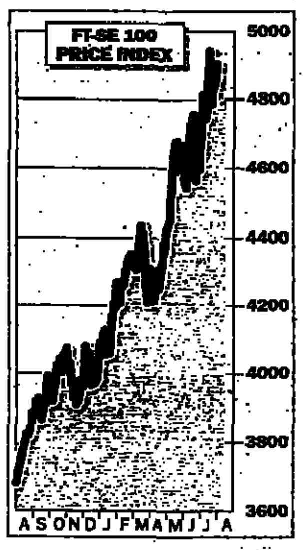
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs: with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£114.29	£102.59
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	13.90%A	£112.07	£101.33
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.95	£101.45

Nb. A = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	At tax rates 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*[6]	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**[7]	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*[6]	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond[4]	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†[2][3]	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond[6]	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†[3]	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3[6]	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000[5]	60day	0645 645000

*[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 * Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free [2] Rates gross and vble [3] Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4] 0·2% net bonus for £20,000+ [5] £100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings [6] Taxable but cred in full [7] £500-100,000 earn higher rates **Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£ 9,551	£10,594	£11,952
Canada Life ....Level	£ 9,502	£10,587	£12,065
Norwich Un ....Level	£ 9,468	£10,476	£11,816
Equit Life..........Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675
Royal Sun Al ....Level	£ 9,249	£10,398	£11,951

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£8,800	£ 9,614	£10,804
Prudential ....Level	£8,791	£ 9,601	£10,788
Generali ....Level	£8,656	£ 9,516	£10,704
Norwich Union.....Level	£8,750	£ 9,513	£10,664
Royal Sun Al ....Level	£8,509	£ 9,365	£10,612

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,567	£9,097	£ 9,761
Canada Life ....Level	£8,370	£8,994	£ 9,878
Generali ....Level	£8,325	£8,959	£ 9,829
Prudential ....Level	£8,311	£8,848	£ 9,671
Equit Life ....Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Statistics compiled by Jackie Stradling

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at June 19, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assur	4.90
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.80
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	10,000	AIG Life	6.42
	20,000	AIG Life	6.56
	50,000	AIG Life	6.66
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.58
	50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.68
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	*Hambro Assured*	6.15
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.70

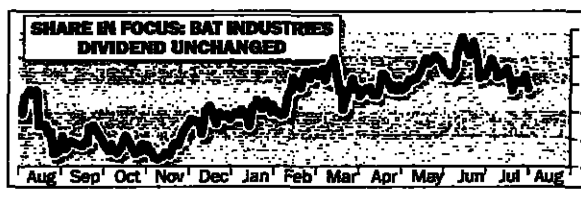
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	121.98	7.653	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	145.49	7.990	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	162.61	7.995	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	165.23	8.095	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	161.21	8.064	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	158.09	7.604	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	144.89	8.110	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	168.53	7.936	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	133.99	7.985	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	157.94	7.994	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	157.16	8.033	100.14	1,000
Skipton	*12.875%*	*161.65*	*7.965*	*100.48*	*1,000*

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	116.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	105.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.20	£20k+	80	2.75% disc to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed - 1.10.99
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	£15k+	85	Disc of 2.10% for 2 years
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 0118 951 0100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mths
RBS 0800 121121	5.20	£150 - 250k	90	3% discount to 2.3.98.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0990 133149	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Staffordshire 01902 317485	1.99	to £200k	80	6% dsc-1.9.98,
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 0118 951 0100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Alliance & Leic 0800 412214	5.20	£20-150k	95	3% discount to 1.9.98

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Coventry 01203 555255	5.95	to £80k	95	2.25% discount for 1 year
Portman 01202 292494	5.99	£35-100k	95	Fixed at 5.99% for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 0118 951 0100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax Plc 01422 333333	5.20	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99. 0.5% var. 30.9.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482)

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	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	573.70	607.10	+ 5.00	...
UK Equity	769.40	814.20	+ 5.90	...
Property	443.50	469.40	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	368.10	389.60	+ 3.30	...
Money	276.60	292.70	+ 0.30	...
International	491.40	520.10	+ 9.20	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	213.80	225.10	+ 1.50	...
Ethical S4	168.80	177.70	+ 0.20	...
International S4	245.00	257.90	+ 4.30	...
Protected Gth S4	129.90	136.80	+ 0.20	...
Asian Pacific	229.40	241.50	- 7.40	...
European S4	262.80	276.70	+ 3.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	427.10	449.60	+ 4.50	...
Equity Ser 4	300.70	316.60	+ 0.10	...
Man Ser 4	865.70	911.30	+ 6.50	...
Conv Ser 4	363.10	382.30	+ 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	362.80	381.90	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	425.00	447.40	+ 1.30	...
American Ser 4	829.70	873.40	+28.20	...
High Inc Ser 4	937.20	986.60	+ 8.10	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	240.50	253.20	- 1.00	...
Japan Ser 4	312.50	329.00	- 4.40	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2133.60	2245.80	+ 5.50	...
European Fd Acc	567.80	597.60	+ 7.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	600.80	632.40	+ 2.20	...
Gtd Money Acc	369.50	388.80	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	835.30	879.20	+15.30	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	370.90	390.40	+ 3.40	...
Japan Fund	269.90	284.00	+ 0.60	...
N American Acc	498.70	524.90	+10.90	...
Prop Fd Acc	503.70	530.20	+ 5.70	...
Multiple Inv Acc	*1342.00*	*1412.60*	*+ 9.40*	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	414.70	436.60	+ 0.40	...
Equity Acc	1966.00	2069.50	+26.00	...
Property Acc	704.00	741.10	+ 4.50	
Far East Acc	353.30	371.90	+ 7.10	...
Managed Capital	681.40	717.30	+ 7.40	...
-do- Acc	1475.10	1552.80	+16.40	...
Overseas Acc	1368.40	1440.50	+17.80	...
Gilt Edged Acc	595.20	626.60	+ 1.70	...
Amer Equity Acc	1376.70	1449.20	+41.70	...
Amer Man Acc	567.70	597.60	+16.50	...
Amer Prop Acc	117.50	123.70	- 1.30	...
Distribution Bonds	27.20	28.70	+ 0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	184.40	194.10	+ 1.10	...
Balncd Ser 6	970.40	1021.40	+14.60	...
Opportunity Ser 6	225.00	236.80	+ 3.40	...
Distribution Ser 6	111.00	116.80	+ 0.50	6.26
UK Equities Ser 6	1444.00	1519.90	+19.30	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1454.00	1530.50	+ 5.20	...
North Amer Ser 6	700.90	737.70	+19.60	...
Far East Ser 6	611.10	643.20	-15.50	...
Europe Ser 6	580.00	610.50	+14.60	...
Intnl Ser 6	769.70	810.20	+18.90	...
Property Ser 6	623.20	656.00	+ 6.90	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	515.30	542.40	+ 2.20	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	208.90	219.80	- 1.30	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	330.60	347.90	+ 0.10	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1238.50	1303.70	+12.80	...
-do- Initial	745.00	784.30	+ 5.40	...
Gilt Edged Acc	*472.60*	*497.50*	*+ 1.00*	...
-do- Initial	286.80	301.90	- 0.30	...
International Acc	513.80	540.90	+ 6.20	...
-do- Initial	309.80	326.20	+ 2.80	...
Managed Acc	714.10	751.70	+ 6.90	...
-do- Initial	432.10	454.90	+ 2.90	...
Money Acc	322.60	339.60	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	335.00	352.70	+ 3.50	...
-do- Initial	202.20	212.90	+ 2.00	...
America Acc	475.20	500.30	+13.90	...
Far East Gwth	287.00	302.20	+ 8.40	...
Financial Acc	561.50	591.10	+ 7.80	...
500 Accum	518.00	545.30	- 1.70	...
Japan Acc	246.70	259.70	- 7.60	...
Income Acc	712.70	750.30	+ 4.30	...
Leisure Acc	330.50	347.90	+ 0.70	...
Special Sits Acc	378.70	398.70	+ 4.00	...
Univ Tech Acc	210.80	221.90	+ 2.70	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1016.94	1069.94	+10.27	...
Income Fund	1033.43	1087.83	+ 3.87	...
Extra Income	920.46	968.91	+ 2.32	...
Worldwide Gth	634.64	668.09	+18.47	...
Balanced Fund	913.26	961.33	+ 3.76	...
Smllr Cos Recrv	1034.78	1089.25	- 2.79	...
N Amer & Genrl	563.94	593.63	+15.05	...
Pacific Basin	450.49	474.20	-28.27	...
German Growth	319.22	336.03	+ 9.58	...
Japan Growth	170.86	179.86	+ 5.12	...
The UK Gth Fd	296.25	311.85	+ 1.99	...
Contl Euro Gth	197.58	207.98	+ 5.47	...
Property Fund	435.72	458.66	- 0.80	...
Fixed Interest	394.12	414.87	+ 0.43	...
Cash Fund	313.38	329.88	+ 0.26	...
Managed Inv	635.99	669.47	+ 6.35	...
Nth Amer Recov	348.91	367.28	+ 6.95	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	576.41	606.75	+18.13	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	227.50	240.80	+ 2.30	...
Performance Plus	259.60	274.70	+ 2.70	...
With Profits Perf	195.40	206.70	+ 0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	291.70	308.50	+ 2.60	...
Euro Opportunity	322.20	340.80	+ 2.90	...
North Amer Opp	294.50	311.60	+ 6.20	...
Far East Opp	231.90	245.30	+ 4.00	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	186.20	196.00		
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.50	229.10	...	...
Fixed Int	244.10	258.20	+ 0.40	...
Cash	175.40	185.50	- 0.10	6.49
Overseas	299.20	316.60	+ 3.10	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	476.60	501.70	+ 4.70	...
UK Equity	882.30	928.70	+ 7.80	...
Property	298.80	314.60	...	...
Money Market	277.90	292.60	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	354.60	373.30	+ 0.60	...
Japan	336.50	354.30	- 0.90	...
North America	262.10	275.90	+ 5.50	...
International	462.30	486.70	+ 4.80	...
European	412.00	433.70	+ 3.70	...
Far East	171.70	180.80	- 3.00	...
CANADA LIFE 26 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	438.00	461.10	+ 5.30	...
Property	286.20	301.30	...	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	285.50	300.60	+ 0.80	...
Equity	532.40	560.50	+ 5.30	...
Cash	236.80	249.30	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	520.60	548.00	+14.20	...
CLife Intl Fd	422.70	445.00	+10.60	...
Managed Fund	935.10	984.30	+11.30	...
Property Fund	579.80	610.30	- 0.90	...
Equity Fund	1314.00	1383.20	+13.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	736.70	775.50	+ 2.10	...
Deposit Fund	366.30	385.60	+ 0.30	...
Investment Fd	588.70	618.20	+13.70	...
International	672.80	708.20	+16.90	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	*186.00*	*195.80*	*+ 1.60*	...
Managed Fund	861.30	906.70	+10.80	...
Equity Fund	519.70	547.10	+ 4.60	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	380.50	400.60	+ 3.80	...
Ruby	216.50	227.90	+ 1.90	...
Emerald	167.10	176.00	+ 0.60	...
Equity	453.50	477.40	+ 3.00	...
Property	249.90	263.10	+ 0.50	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	247.60	260.70	+ 0.90	...
Indexed Secs	191.90	202.10	+ 0.70	...
Cash	206.60	217.50	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	367.20	386.60	+10.50	...
Far East	320.30	337.20	+ 2.10	...
International	313.20	329.70	+ 6.00	...
Special Sits	467.20	491.80	+ 1.20	...
Intl Income	413.40	435.20	+ 4.60	...
European	487.30	513.00	+ 9.70	...
Japanese	128.10	134.90	- 0.30	...
SE Asia	442.90	466.30	+18.40	...
With Profits Reg	193.90	204.20	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	193.90	204.20	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	455.90	479.90	+ 6.00	...
Equity	584.50	615.30	+ 5.90	...
Property	233.60	246.00	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	323.20	340.30	+ 0.70	...
Index Linked	205.70	216.60	+ 0.80	...
Cash	285.50	300.60	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	463.60	488.10	+16.40	...
Far East Acc	343.20	361.30	+ 7.40	...
International Acc	397.00	417.90	+ 8.40	...
Special Sits	723.20	761.30	+ 2.20	...
European Flex	718.10	755.90	+18.80	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, *Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000*				
(Units): Key‡	264.32		...	...
-do- Pacemaker‡	409.97	...	...	...
-do- Cash	223.03	234.77	+ 0.15	...
-do- Equity	747.74	787.09	+ 7.29	...
-do- Fxd Int	433.63	456.45	+ 1.93	...
-do- Managed	529.30	557.16	+ 5.19	...
-do- Property	375.92	395.71	+ 0.71	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	217.27	228.71	- 0.10	...
-do- Cash Inv	349.10	367.48	+ 0.41	...
-do- Equity Cap	1977.70	2081.80	+24.44	...
-do- Equity Inv	3177.68	3344.94	+41.50	...
-do- Fixed Cap	465.82	490.34	+ 2.50	...
-do- Fixed Inv	748.45	787.86	+ 4.54	...
-do- Index Cap	218.33	229.83	+ 0.88	...
-do- Index Inv	350.81	369.28	+ 1.66	...
-do- Mngd Cap	773.19	813.89	+ 7.71	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1242.32	1307.72	+13.26	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)‡	1113.05	...	+ 6.94	...
Var Ann (5)‡	123.81	...	- 2.75	...
Prime: Managed	532.40	560.50	+ 4.70	...
Prime: UK Equity	694.90	731.50	+ 7.00	...
Prime: Int Equity	376.30	396.20	+ 4.50	...
Prime: Property	263.10	277.00	+ 0.60	...
Prime: Fxd Int	273.00	287.40	- 0.90	...
Prime: Index-Lnk	193.20	203.40	- 0.50	...
Prime: Cash	227.80	239.60	+ 0.20	
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1459.40	1536.20	+ 4.90	...
Equity ‡	2205.60	2321.60	+13.10	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE *Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ.* 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (5/6)‡	115.50	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2)‡	110.00	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3)‡	129.70	...	+ 0.80	...
Equity Mngd (3)‡	130.50	...	+ 1.00	...
Adventurous (3)‡	123.60	...	+ 2.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2)‡	111.50	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	316.50	333.20	+ 2.40	...
Managed S1	314.10	330.70	+ 2.00	...
Adventurous S1	256.30	269.80	+ 4.30	...
Managed (2)	212.50	223.70	+ 1.40	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	412.50	427.50	+ 3.20	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5)‡	115.30	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2)‡	110.50	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2)‡	128.80	...	+ 1.00	...
Equity Mngd (2)‡	131.00	...	+ 1.10	...
Adventurous (2)‡	124.40	...	+ 2.60	...
Bristol & West (2)‡	112.10	...	+ 0.20	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	420.60	442.80	+ 6.40	...
UK Equity	576.90	607.30	+ 6.10	...
Stewardship	473.60	498.60	- 1.60	...
Overseas Equity	395.80	416.70	+ 8.60	...
North American	242.20	255.00	+ 5.30	...
Pacific Basin	197.50	207.90	+ 5.80	...
European	383.60	403.80	+ 9.30	...
Property	195.30	205.60	+ 1.20	...
Fixed Interest	288.30	303.50	+ 1.10	...
Index Linked	194.10	204.40	+ 0.90	...
Cash	222.60	234.40	+ 0.10	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	639.70	673.30	+ 5.50	...
Managed	942.00	991.50	+10.90	...
Deposit	380.40	400.40	+ 0.20	...
Property	529.80	557.60	+ 0.70	...
American	675.00	710.50	+16.80	...
Australian	724.20	762.30	+18.70	...
European	894.80	941.80	+17.60	...
Income Acc	1016.30	1069.70	+ 4.10	...
-do- Dist	551.20	580.20	+ 2.80	4.42
International	413.40	435.10	+ 7.30	...
Japan Smaller	366.20	385.40	- 6.60	
Singapore & Mal	462.80	487.10	+13.80	...
Smaller Cos	590.00	621.00	+ 4.90	...
Tokyo Fund	*636.50*	*670.00*	*- 3.30*	...
UK Equity	809.30	851.80	+ 6.10	...
CCM Vangd Mg	996.00	1048.40	+13.10	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	362.10	381.20	+12.30	...
GT Plan Wwide	618.10	650.70	+14.40	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	849.90	849.90	- 4.60	...
-do- Inv A	849.80	894.60	- 4.80	...
UK Equity	551.90	581.10	+ 3.70	...
Gilt Plus	234.70	247.10	+ 0.60	...
Managed	386.70	407.10	+ 2.30	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	279.60	294.20	+ 3.20	...
Unitised Profit	165.00	173.70	- 0.30	...
UK Equity	408.90	430.30	+ 4.70	...
Fixed Int	231.70	243.10	- 0.50	...
Index-Linked	186.20	195.90	+ 1.00	...
Cash Deposit	192.20	202.20	+ 0.20	...
Property	191.80	201.70	+ 1.00	...
International	227.80	239.70	+ 2.70	...
American	269.00	283.10	+ 7.60	...
Japan	222.40	234.00	- 3.30	...
Japan Smllr Cos	227.80	239.70	- 3.30	...
European	259.90	273.50	+ 4.90	...
Pacific Fund	329.00	346.30	+ 8.80	...
Conv Life	169.50	178.30	+ 0.80	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	638.40	672.00	+ 7.30	...
Managed Initial	394.90	415.70	+ 4.30	...
Equity Ord	1033.90	1087.90	+11.80	...
Equity Init	639.30	672.90	+ 6.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	*227.00*	*238.90*	*+ 1.10*	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	146.70	154.40	+ 0.70	...
Oseas Equity Ord	493.00	518.90	+ 6.90	...
Oseas Equity Init	305.00	321.10	+ 4.30	...
Property Ord	297.80	313.50	+ 1.60	...
Property Init	184.20	193.90	+ 0.80	...
Fixed Int Ord	337.80	355.60	- 0.80	...
Fixed Int Init	208.90	219.90	- 0.20	...
Deposit Ord	229.20	241.30	- 0.20	...
Deposit Initial	141.80	149.30	+ 0.10	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE *Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101*				
Ass Prop Bds	920.80	959.20	+ 2.70	...
Managed Initial	592.70	623.90	+ 7.60	...
-do- Acc	897.30	944.50	+12.00	...
Equity Initial	952.40	1002.50	+11.60	...
-do- Acc	1441.70	1517.60	+18.30	...
Fixed Int Initial	498.40	524.60	+ 1.90	...
-do- Acc	754.40	794.10	+ 3.20	...
Intl Initial	555.50	584.70	+ 9.50	...
-do- Acc	840.90	885.10	+14.80	...
Nth Amer Initial	294.90	310.50	+ 8.10	...
-do- Acc	406.30	427.70	+11.20	...
Pacific Initial	226.80	238.80	+ 2.90	...
-do- Acc	309.60	325.90	+ 4.10	...
Property Initial	191.10	201.20	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc	289.30	304.50	+ 1.50	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	173.20	182.40	+ 0.70	...
-do- Acc	238.70	251.20	+ 1.00	...
Deposit Initial	207.30	218.20	+ 0.70	...
-do- Acc	313.00	330.40	+ 0.30	...
Euro Initial	147.00	154.70	+ 2.20	...
-do- Acc	187.10	196.90	+ 2.90	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	33.99	35.78	- 0.47	...
Balanced	34.16	35.96	+ 0.40	...
Opportunity	34.67	36.49	+ 0.34	...
Deposit	26.19	27.57	+ 0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	26.40	27.79	+ 0.51	...
Balanced S2	27.10	28.53	+ 0.51	...
Opportunity S2	26.321	27.69	+ 0.37	...
Deposit S2	24.45	25.74	+ 0.03	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	225.20	237.00	+ 3.60	...
-do- Pens	293.90	309.30	+ 4.50	...
UK Equity	244.70	257.50	+ 1.30	...
-do- Pens	300.80	316.60	+ 2.00	...
International	196.80	207.10	+ 6.40	...
-do- Pens	223.60	235.30	+ 8.60	...
Deposit	153.90	162.00	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	188.20	198.10	+ 0.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	727.20	769.60	+13.10	...
British Fund	805.00	851.90	+14.60	...
International	724.60	766.80	+12.90	...
Dollar Fund	666.60	705.40	+15.50	...
Capital Fund	666.90	705.80	+12.30	...
Income Fund	999.30	1057.50	+14.50	...
Property Series A	534.20	565.30	+ 1.00	4.80
Property Units	890.90	935.50	+ 1.90	...
Financial Fund	977.20	1034.10	+28.80	...
Managed Ser A	729.40	771.90	+11.10	...
Managed Units	1318.40	1387.80	+20.10	...
High Yield Fund	885.50	937.10	+11.30	...
Money Series A	321.00	339.70	+ 0.30	...
Money Units	429.90	452.60	- 0.40	...
Equity Fund	848.40	897.80	+15.00	...
Fixed Interest	451.80	478.10	- 0.50	...
Indexed Secs	210.10	222.40	- 0.50	...
European Fund	1076.30	1139.00	+21.30	...
Natural Res	313.90	332.20	+ 7.60	...
Far East Fund	649.20	687.00	+17.00	...
Smaller Cos	639.50	676.80	+ 1.40	...
Special Sits	666.80	705.70	+ 1.10	...
Man Currency	285.00	301.60	- 0.70	...
Japanese Tech	321.40	340.20	- 9.70	...
US Smaller Cos	492.90	521.60	+13.10	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	274.50	289.00	+ 0.40	...
Financial Ser 1	*79.40*	*84.00*	*- 2.00*	...
Fixed Interest	386.70	407.10	+ 1.00	...
Gold	79.90	84.20	+ 4.30	...
Managed	820.40	863.70	+26.00	...
Mngd Growth	264.90	278.90	+13.80	...
Mngd Opp	282.10	297.10	+14.90	...
Property	390.20	410.70	...	...
Residential Prop	122.50	129.10	- 0.10	...
TSB American	380.80	401.00	+ 7.90	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1261.80	1328.30	+36.20	...
TSB European	407.50	429.00	+14.00	...
TSB Income	589.40	620.50	+14.10	...
TSB Intl	561.80	591.50	+16.70	...
TSB Intl Inc	362.10	381.30	+ 7.70	...
TSB Pacific	460.60	485.00	-20.40	...
TSB Prem Inc	341.40	356.70	- 1.00	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	*770.80*	*811.40*	*+ 6.10*	...
Global Property	330.70	348.10	- 1.70	...
Global Fixed Int	619.50	652.10	- 0.80	...
Global Equity	850.30	895.00	+ 7.80	...
Global Cash	237.10	249.60	+ 0.20	...
For Laurentian see Lincoln				
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	199.70	210.30	...	...
Brit Opps Int	188.50	198.50	+ 1.90	
-do- Acc	253.50	266.90	+ 3.20	...
Cash Initial	171.50	180.60	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc	319.90	336.80	- 0.10	...
Equity Initial	891.40	938.40	+ 9.80	...
-do- Acc	1662.50	1750.00	+22.60	...
Fixed Initial	386.60	407.00	+ 0.30	...
-do- Acc	*721.10*	*759.10*	*+ 2.50*	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	142.00	149.50	+ 0.30	...
-do- Acc	225.90	237.80	+ 0.90	...
Intl Initial	377.40	397.30	+ 6.90	...
-do- Acc	693.10	729.60	+14.60	
Managed Initial	594.80	626.20	+ 6.40	
-do- Acc	1109.30	1167.70	+14.70	...
Property Initial	231.00	243.20	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc	430.90	453.60	+ 0.30	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	£186.96	...	+237.00	...
Property Units	3066.00	3227.00	-11.00	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	8697.00	9154.00	-109.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	882.50	928.80	+11.70	
2nd High Inc Ac	849.60	894.20	+10.40	...
2nd Property Acc	275.40	289.80	- 1.00	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	209.80	220.70	+ 1.20	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	603.60	635.30	+ 7.60	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	292.10	307.40	+ 4.90	...
2nd Deposit Acc	314.20	330.60	+ 0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	358.80	377.50	+ 1.20	...
2nd Amer Acc	1058.00	1114.00	+24.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	243.30	256.00	+ 2.30	...
2nd Index Acc	233.00	245.20	+ 0.40	...
2nd Far East Acc	426.80	449.20	+16.70	...
2nd Global Acc	207.10	217.90	+ 3.50	...
2nd Euro Acc	220.20	231.70	+ 6.00	...
2nd Japan Acc	158.90	167.20	- 2.70	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	173.50	182.50	+ 1.90	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	166.50	175.10	+ 1.60	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	586.60	617.40	- 2.10	...
Managed	542.60	571.00	+ 6.70	...
American	630.20	663.30	+14.60	...
UK Equity Fd	640.70	674.40	+ 4.50	...
Japan	175.00	184.10	- 3.00	...
Index-Lkd	208.70	219.60	+ 0.80	...
High Yield	1180.00	1242.00	+15.00	...
Money	446.40	469.80	+ 0.40	...
International	465.20	489.60	+ 7.80	...
Perpetual Active	414.20	435.90	+ 9.60	...
Growth Acc	848.50	893.10	+10.70	...
Gilt Edged	508.20	534.90	- 1.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	200.90	211.40	+ 3.60	...
Far East	225.80	237.60	- 8.90	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 954 7777				
Equity‡	1234.70	...	+ 4.60	...
Fixed Interest‡	515.70	...	+ 3.90	...
Property‡	475.60	...	+ 0.60	...
Deposit‡	327.80	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed‡	776.10	...	+ 3.20	...
Indexed Stock‡	249.70	...	- 0.60	...
International‡	357.30	...	+ 3.40	...
Equity A‡	285.40	...	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Int A‡	228.00	...	+ 1.70	...
Property A‡	208.30	...	+ 0.30	...
Deposit A‡	192.00	...	+ 0.10	...
Mixed A‡	254.20	...	+ 1.10	...
Index Stock A‡	194.80	...	- 0.50	...
International A‡	222.50	...	+ 2.30	...
Equity P‡	1084.90	...	+ 4.60	...
Fixed Int P‡	714.50	...	+ 4.10	...
Property P‡	373.10	...	+ 0.50	...
Deposit P‡	395.50	...	+ 0.50	...
Mixed P‡	746.30	...	+ 3.90	...
Index Stock P‡	287.50	...	- 0.40	...
International P‡	433.60	...	+ 5.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap‡	649.00	...	+ 5.90	...
-do- Acc‡	1223.10	...	+12.20	...
Property Cap‡	138.50	...	- 0.90	...
-do- Acc‡	249.00	...	- 1.40	...
Fxd Interest Cap‡	208.90	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc‡	378.60	...	+ 0.50	...
Equity Cap‡	403.50	...	+ 1.70	...
-do- Acc‡	745.00	...	+ 3.80	...
Internatl Cap‡	266.40	...	+ 6.20	...
-do- Acc‡	486.10	...	+11.90	...
Gtd Deposit Cap‡	159.70	...	...	...
-do- Acc‡	387.20	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap‡	407.10	...	+ 3.40	...
-do- Acc‡	*748.40*	...	*+ 6.90*	...
Moneymaker Fd‡	570.10	...	- 5.10	...
Capital Growth‡	2454.50	...	+19.90	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	685.50	719.90	+24.30	...
Amer Rec Bond	792.80	832.60	+19.90	...
Am Smllr Cos Bd	330.80	347.40	+ 7.50	...
Australasia Bd	330.10	346.80	+12.70	...
Commodity Bond	408.10	428.60	+14.30	...
Deposit Bond Acc	400.00	420.10	- 0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	1888.70	1983.30	+27.20	...
European Bd Acc	571.20	599.80	+ 1.80	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	999.30	1049.40	+ 7.80	...
Gilt Bond Acc	536.80	563.70	+ 1.60	...
Gold Bond Acc	147.20	154.60	- 7.30	...
High Yield Bond	415.60	436.50	+ 2.60	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	236.20	248.10	- 0.80	...
International Bd	960.90	1009.00	+ 9.60	...
Japan Bond Acc	*208.90*	*219.50*	*- 3.90*	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	207.50	217.90	- 2.70	...
Managed Bonds	1112.90	1168.60	+19.00	...
Prop Bond Acc	506.80	532.40	- 8.30	...
Rec Bond Acc	997.30	1047.20	+28.90	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	365.50	383.90	- 8.00	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204651				
UK Equity	304.10	320.20	+ 3.00	...
UK Equity Acc	470.70	495.50	+ 4.80	...
Special Sits	125.00	131.60	+ 1.30	...
Special Sits Acc	193.50	203.70	+ 2.10	...
North American	267.60	281.70	+ 6.10	...
N American Acc	414.30	436.20	+ 9.70	...
Pacific Basin	361.60	380.70	- 6.20	...
Pacific Basin Acc	559.90	589.40	- 7.00	...
Fixed Interest	313.40	329.90	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest Acc	485.80	511.40	+ 0.90	...
Property	188.80	198.80	- 0.40	...
Property Acc	292.70	308.20	- 1.00	...
Deposit	155.50	163.70	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Acc	241.00	253.70	+ 0.20	...
Managed	327.80	345.10	+ 3.10	...
Managed Acc	467.60	492.30	+ 4.70	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	452.50	476.30	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	506.50	533.10	+ 2.90	...
Gilt Edged	725.40	763.50	+ 0.10	...
Interest Fund	443.10	466.40	+ 0.80	...
Managed Fd	622.20	654.90	+ 7.40	...
Intl Equity	770.80	811.30	+16.90	...
North American	328.20	345.41	+ 8.50	...
Far East	493.70	519.60	-14.70	...
Intl Currency	261.00	274.70	- 0.10	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	637.60	671.10	+ 8.40	...
UK Equity	902.90	950.40	+14.70	...
Overseas Equity	592.90	624.10	+11.80	...
American	599.70	630.80	+12.90	...
Far East	601.60	633.20	-12.00	...
Property	241.70	254.40	- 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	465.10	489.50	+ 1.50	...
Indexed Gilt	264.20	278.10	+ 1.10	...
Deposit	241.50	254.20	+ 0.30	
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 866, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	184.80	194.20	+ 2.30	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1965.70	2069.20	+29.20	...
Equity Fund	4522.50	4760.50	+64.50	...
Property Fd	698.40	735.20	- 0.80	...
Fixed Int Fd	727.80	766.10	+ 1.90	...
Deposit Fund	392.00	412.60	+ 0.20	...
Intl Fund	325.60	342.70	- 6.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	412.30	435.00	+ 5.30	...
Fxd Interest Acc	290.60	306.60	+ 0.70	...
International Acc	316.70	334.10	+ 8.00	...
Managed Acc	285.70	301.40	+ 3.80	...
Property Acc	211.30	222.90	- 0.40	...
Money Acc	170.10	179.50	+ 0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	230.60	243.30	+ 5.50	...
Japan Equity Acc	104.60	110.40	- 1.00	...
N Amer Acc	257.80	272.00	+ 8.40	...
Pacific Acc	153.00	161.40	+ 3.90	...
European Acc	285.70	301.40	+11.90	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	146.10	153.80	- 0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	351.30	369.80	+ 0.40	...
Inv Equity	1760.10	1852.80	+21.00	...
Inv Managed	1160.40	1221.50	+13.40	...
Ret Managed	1364.20	1436.10	+14.60	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	472.10	491.80	+ 6.10	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3228				
Managed Fund	1052.50	1107.90	+10.00	...
Equity Fund	2228.60	2345.90	+22.70	...
Intl Fund	818.30	861.40	+ 8.60	...
Fixed Interest	675.20	710.80	+ 1.40	...
Property Fund	508.00	534.80	+ 0.80	...
Cash Fund	*404.50*	*425.80*	*+ 0.47*	...
Pacific Basin	378.80	398.80	+ 0.30	...
N American Fd	451.80	475.60	+17.70	...
Euro Fund	418.80	440.90	+ 5.20	...
Balanced Fund	209.30	220.40	+ 1.60	...
Strategic Fund	228.30	240.40	+ 2.90	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)‡	981.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	533.20	561.30	...	...
Op Prop	551.30	580.30	- 0.90	...
Op Equity	1403.20	1477.10	+ 9.80	...
Op High Yield	712.30	749.70	+ 1.10	...
Op Managed	1076.90	1133.60	+10.20	...
Op Deposit	434.50	457.40	+ 0.40	...
Japan Smlr	182.90	192.50	- 7.30	...
Managed Gth	373.40	393.00	+10.40	...
British	507.60	534.30	+16.20	...
Global Bond	123.70	130.20	+ 2.60	...
Gold Share	85.90	90.40	+ 6.80	...
Japan	370.30	389.80	+ 3.70	...
UK Smlr Cos	551.80	580.80	- 6.00	...
Mngd Growth	609.50	641.60	+ 6.70	
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3080				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	516.50	543.60	+ 4.40	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	96.00	101.60	- 0.60	2.37
Deposit Fund (2)	421.60	446.20	+ 0.40	6.92
Gilt Fund	627.50	664.10	+ 1.90	8.06
Global Equity Fd	300.10	317.60	+ 4.30	..
Property Fund (46)	*124.90*	*132.20*	...	7.05
AG Bond Fund	169.30	179.20	+ 3.30	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	828.40	872.10	+ 3.50	...
Fixed Interest	438.40	461.50	+ 0.90	...
Index-Linked	222.10	233.70	+ 0.70	...
International	572.70	602.90	+ 8.70	...
Property	336.20	353.90	+ 0.20	...
Cash	254.60	268.10	+ 0.10	...
Managed	612.00	644.30	+ 4.30	...
Cap Gteed Bd	170.00	179.00	+ 1.30	...
95% Safeguard	111.50	...	+ 1.10	...
100% Safeguard	102.70	...	+ 0.40	...
Wealth Pres Cap	105.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Wealth Pres Inc	85.80	...	+ 6.60	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	201.80	212.42	+ 0.14	...
Index-Linked	188.30	198.10	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	218.70	230.20	...	...
Mixed	347.30	365.70	+ 3.00	...
UK Equity	339.50	357.40	+ 3.90	...
International	340.20	358.20	+ 3.00	...
American	457.50	481.60	+10.60	...
Japan	203.10	213.90	- 4.40	...
European	400.00	421.00	+ 1.50	...
Pacific	398.90	419.90	+13.10	...
Technology	616.30	648.70	+ 9.60	...
Fxgn Bd/Crrcy	241.50	254.30	+ 2.30	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	*266.90*	*280.00*	*- 0.30*	...
UK Equity	526.70	554.60	+ 4.70	...
American	394.40	415.20	+ 7.20	...
Pacific	384.90	405.20	+ 4.70	...
European	672.80	708.30	+11.80	...
Global Mgd	406.40	427.90	+ 6.30	...
Fixed Interest	286.10	301.20	- 1.80	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	225.60	237.60	- 0.90	...
Deposit	216.90	228.50	+ 0.30	...
Managed	389.50	410.10	+ 3.60	...
Worldwide	152.80	160.90	+ 2.90	...
Pen Worldwide	168.00	176.90	+ 3.10	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2302.00	2373.20	...	...
Safety Fund	291.50	306.80	+ 2.00	...
Growth Fund	317.20	333.90	+ 3.60	...
Opportunity Fd	316.60	333.30	+ 3.00	...
Cash Fund	192.70	202.90	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	531.60	559.60	+10.70	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	250.90	264.20	+ 0.90	...
Index-Linked Fd	206.00	216.90	+ 0.70	...
International Fd	372.50	392.20	+ 6.40	...
North American	398.10	419.10	+10.70	...
Property Fund	136.90	144.20	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	354.30	373.00	+ 3.90	...
UK Smaller	324.50	341.60	- 3.10	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	363.50	382.70	+ 3.60	...
Equity	396.40	417.30	+ 2.20	...
International	347.10	365.50	+ 6.50	...
Property	257.00	270.70	+ 2.60	...
Fixed Interest	288.80	304.10	+ 2.20	...
Index Linked	207.90	219.00	+ 0.90	...
Cash	205.00	215.98	+ 0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1071.10	1129.50	+11.80	...
Cash Fund	374.00	394.20	+ 0.50	...
Property Fund	332.80	350.70	+ 3.50	...
Equity Fund	1164.30	1238.70	+19.00	...
Fxd Interest Fund	579.10	610.30	+ 1.70	...
International	490.30	521.70	+ 9.50	...
High Income	1000.30	1064.30	+10.20	...
Far East	*613.60*	*652.80*	*+14.10*	...
North American	889.00	945.80	+28.20	...
Special Sits	878.00	934.10	- 1.60	...
Technology	1179.70	1255.00	+28.00	...
Extra Income Fd	540.60	575.20	+ 5.80	...
Gilt Fund	547.80	582.80	+ 0.90	...
European	217.30	231.20	+ 2.90	...
Adventurous Mg	275.80	290.70	+ 4.40	...
Secure Mgd	189.60	199.80	+ 1.60	...
Equity Inc Dist	146.90	154.80	+ 1.10	4.04
Managed Dist	129.10	136.10	+ 1.20	4.67
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	435.60	463.50	- 0.10	...
North American	531.80	565.80	+16.30	...
Far East Fund	636.30	677.00	+19.00	...
Global Managed	597.20	635.40	+ 5.70	...
Deposit Fund	252.20	265.50	+ 0.30	...
Prime Residential	144.90	152.60	+ 0.20	..
European Fund	393.20	418.30	+ 9.00	...
Fixed Interest	62.50	66.50	+ 0.80	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1378.60	1378.60	+22.60	...
Inv Pol 2	1244.40	1310.00	+21.10	...
Inv Pol 3	1173.40	1235.20	+19.40	...
Inv Cash	351.70	370.30	+ 0.30	...
Mixed Fund	606.60	638.60	+ 3.20	...
Equity Fund	766.00	806.40	- 0.40	...
Property Fund	283.10	298.10	+ 4.00	...
International Fd	638.40	672.10	+ 7.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	458.80	483.10	+ 1.50	...
Indexed Stock Fd	229.90	242.10	+ 0.90	...
Cash Fund	254.00	267.40	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	522.40	549.80	+ 4.30	...
Equity Acc	664.90	699.80	+ 1.40	...
International Acc	412.10	433.70	+ 3.90	...
Property	249.50	262.60	+ 0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	298.20	313.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity	1473.70	1551.30	+14.30	...
European	227.90	239.90	+ 2.60	...
Far East	182.10	191.70	+ 1.70	...
Fixed Interest	481.10	506.50	+ 2.10	...
Index Linked	243.50	256.40	+ 0.90	...
International	742.90	782.10	+ 8.40	...
Managed	952.20	1002.00	+ 8.80	...
Nth American	230.80	243.00	+ 6.40	...
Property	417.40	439.40	+ 0.50	...
Pensions				
Cash	480.40	505.70	+ 0.60	...
Equity	2311.50	2433.20	+26.10	...
European	312.60	329.10	+ 6.60	...
Far East	148.70	156.60	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Interest	697.50	734.30	+ 3.50	...
Index Linked	346.50	364.80	+ 1.50	...
International	1147.80	1208.30	+18.10	...
Managed	1454.00	1530.60	+17.20	...
Nth American	320.80	337.70	+ 9.50	
Property	611.00	643.20	+ 1.00	...
Stock Exchange	321.40	338.40	+ 3.90	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	953.50	1003.70	+14.00	...
Equity Fund	1296.10	1364.40	+16.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	492.60	518.60	+ 1.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	369.70	389.20	- 1.50	...
Property Fund	582.70	613.40	+ 5.80	...
International Fd	936.90	986.30	+20.60	...
N American Fd	455.00	479.00	+11.80	...
Far East Fund	256.20	269.70	+ 5.30	...
Deposit Fund	333.60	351.20	+ 0.30	...
Intnl Bd‡	£132.60	...	[illegible]	...
Worldwide Bond	167.90	176.70	+ 2.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	220.40	234.70	+ 4.10	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	962.90	1013.60	+ 9.90	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	576.50	615.50	...	
Property Growth				
Property Fund‡	683.40	...	+ 6.60	...
-do- Acc‡	631.40	...	+ 6.00	...
Agricultural Fd‡	936.30	...	+ 0.90	...
-do- Acc‡	882.20	...	+ 0.70	...
Abbey Nat Fd‡	500.10	...	+ 2.70	...
Abbey Nat Acc‡	523.30	...	+ 2.90	...
Investment Fd‡	512.80	...	+ 7.20	...
Investment (A)‡	490.00	...	+ 6.90	...
Equity‡	1911.00	...	+22.80	...
Equity Acc‡	1817.80	...	+21.70	...
Money Fund‡	534.60	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc‡	511.80	...	+ 0.50	...
Actuarial Fd‡	838.00	...	+11.80	...
Gilt-Edged Fd‡	463.80	...	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc‡	463.80	...	+ 1.30	...
Retire Annuity‡	1423.80	...	...	...
Immed Annuity‡	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life‡	253.10	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basing View, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc‡	2075.00	...	+ 9.60	...
Managed Acc‡	1144.00	...	+ 9.30	...
Equity Account‡	1749.00	...	-22.80	...
Mngd Fund Acc	519.30	546.60	+ 4.50	...
Equity Fund Acc	753.10	792.80	+10.40	...
Prop Fund Acc	294.40	309.90	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	383.00	403.20	+ 2.70	...
Money Fund Acc	244.90	257.80	+ 0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Sec Ac	233.30	245.60	+ 0.20	...
Pers Pens Acct‡	2638.90	...	+37.70	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1226.30	1290.90	+18.50	...
Pens Guarantee	311.40	327.80	+ 0.50	...
Pens Equity	494.10	520.10	+ 4.00	...
Pens Property	346.00	364.20	+ 0.50	...
Pens Fixed Int	377.80	397.70	+ 3.50	...
Pens Intl	322.70	339.70	...	...
Pens Money	271.40	285.70	+ 0.50	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	229.50	241.60	+ 0.30	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1210.40	1274.20	+13.50	...
Property Acc	454.40	478.40	- 6.00	...
Equity Acc	2099.20	2209.70	+17.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	496.60	522.80	+ 0.70	...
Cash Acc	346.60	364.90	+ 0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	625.00	657.90	+20.20	...
Japan Acc	275.50	290.10	- 3.90	...
Pacific Acc	432.60	455.40	+14.30	...
Far Eastern Acc	906.90	954.70	+22.50	...
International Acc	764.10	804.30	+19.50	...
Distribution Fund	329.20	346.60	+ 1.10	5.41
European	270.60	284.90	+ 4.30	...
Deffrd Dist	219.10	230.70	+ 0.40	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	381.10	401.20	+ 5.80	...
Property Fund	238.70	251.30	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	265.50	279.60	+ 0.90	...
Money Fund	222.70	234.60	+ 0.10	...
Equity Fund	518.00	545.30	+ 9.10	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	943.40	993.00	+10.60	...
Money Fund	353.00	371.50	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	875.90	922.00	+ 8.20	...
Fixed Interest	337.30	355.00	+ 0.60	...
Property Fund	426.80	449.20	- 1.30	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genrl	795.00	837.70	+22.90	...
Income	1015.30	1069.90	+16.40	...
International Gth	800.40	843.40	+20.50	...
Capital Fund	769.30	810.60	- 1.70	...
Recovery Fund	660.80	696.30	+18.50	...
Japan & General	245.30	258.50	+ 3.40	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	20.09	21.15	+ 0.02	...
Bear	26.32	27.71	+ 0.25	...
Owl	28.63	30.14	- 0.26	...
Bull	24.19	25.46	+ 0.27	...
Stag	26.79	28.09	+ 0.30	...
Gilt Edged	22.32	23.49	+ 0.04	...
Deposit	17.36	18.27	+ 0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	28.26	29.75	+ 0.03	...
Bear	38.98	41.03	+ 0.47	...
Owl	41.48	43.66	+ 0.45	...
Bull	33.20	34.95	- 0.46	...
Stag	33.43	35.19	+ 0.52	...
Gilt Edged	29.64	31.20	+ 0.06	...
Deposit	23.23	24.45	+ 0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund 1		798.92	+ 2.58	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	486.41	512.01	+ 4.83	...
N Amer Equity	424.29	446.62	+ 7.35	...
Far East Equity	435.64	458.57	+ 8.01	...
Fixed	356.21	374.96	+ 0.68	...
Cash Deposit	227.88	239.87	+ 0.21	...
Property	181.86	191.43	- 0.54	...
Special Opp	479.76	505.01	+ 6.12	...
Managed	419.70	441.79	+ 4.72	...
Index-Linked Fd	216.16	227.54	+ 0.86	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mngd Acc	789.10	828.00	+ 8.80	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	447.40	470.90	+ 0.80	...
Life Equity Acc	1155.60	1211.90	+11.40	...
Life Money Acc	332.00	349.40	+ 0.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1032.50	1083.40	+11.50	...
Life Intl Acc	614.20	643.90	+10.70	...
Life High Inc Acc	1150.00	1207.30	+17.20	...
Life Property Acc	286.50	301.50	- 0.90	...
Brewin Equity	932.50	981.50	+ 6.60	...

هكذا من الأصل

Caroline Merrell says individuals face pressure to decide over compensation

Third pension warning comes too late for some

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, is becoming increasingly frustrated with those insurance companies dragging their heels in compensating the victims of pensions misselling. Last week, for the third time in as many weeks, she attacked the industry, warning that, if companies had not made satisfactory progress on compensating victims by the autumn, she would take tough action.

She has already strongly criticised Legal & General and Sedgwick over their attitude to compensation. Mrs Liddell also voiced concern that some companies were putting clients under "unacceptable pressure" to settle.

"I am worried about reports I have that some individuals are being put under unacceptable pressure to settle deals they are being offered by companies who mis-sold them pensions as a means of reducing their statistics," she said.

Under the Financial Services Act, Mrs Liddell has the power to stop companies trading. "I will rule nothing out. That means I will take account of the powers I already have. And, if new powers are required, I will not hesitate to seek a means of acquiring those new powers," she said. Only the regulating bodies such as the Personal Investment Authority and the Securities and Investment Board can fine companies.

However, Mrs Liddell's warning comes too late for some of the victims of the hard-sell tactics adopted by companies in the late Eighties and early Nineties. For instance, like many other local authority workers, Paul Greenwood was encouraged by a life insurance salesman to leave the local authority scheme to take out a personal pension. He said: "There was a lot of government advertising around saying that it was a good thing to do."

The salesman from Target Life was visiting everyone in his department. Mr Greenwood was encouraged to leave the superannuation scheme to invest in a £50 a month pension. Target Life was subsequently sold to Hill Samuel, the merchant banking arm of Lloyds TSB. After taking out the pension in 1989, Mr Greenwood then retired due to ill health in 1992. He said: "After a five-year struggle during which I remained unemployed due to health problems, I managed to obtain a deal last year, in October to be precise, which basically involved being returned to the local government superannuation scheme as if I had never left it and I received a lump sum of backdated pension and enhanced pension payments obviously denied to me for five years."

TED DITCHBURN/NORTH NEWS

Paul Greenwood, who switched pensions, has not been compensated for distress

Mr Greenwood has not been compensated for distress caused by his circumstances. He said: "My dismay stems from the fact that at no time did the firm involved mention to me that I could claim for compensation."

According to Ringrose Wharton, a solicitor acting on behalf of more than 600 people who have been missold personal pensions, many of those receiving compensation payments are confused about the amounts of money they are receiving. Robert Wharton, Ringrose Wharton, said: "Anyone who gets an offer of compensation they do not understand should immediately write to the company to find out how it is worked out."

Under the terms of the regulations, those who have been missold personal pensions have four weeks with which to accept the offer of compensation or they waive their right to it. Mr Wharton claimed that many companies were sticking to this mandatory limit.

Mr Greenwood received his £10,000 offer of compensation on November 12 and was told that he had to accept the offer by December 9. He said he was given no indication about how compensation was worked out, but Hill Samuel said it would withdraw the offer if he did not accept it. He was also forced to pay tax on the lump sum. He claims that if the pension had paid as it should have been done, he would not have paid tax.

According to the Inland Revenue, the compensation paid should put the person who has been missold a personal pension back in to the position they would have been if they had not bought the product in the first place.

Hill Samuel said that it was up to the pension scheme to which Mr Greenwood was being returned to sort out the compensation sum. It also said that it would consider paying additional compensation for any distress caused on a case-by-case basis.

According to the latest figures, only 12,000 people from a possible total of 1.5 million have been compensated. Victims include many public sector workers, such as nurses, who were encouraged to leave lucrative company schemes, in favour of taking out personal pensions.

Mrs Liddell, the minister appointed by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to sort out the mess caused by the mis-selling of personal pensions, earlier this month began naming companies which were worst at sorting out compensation claims.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

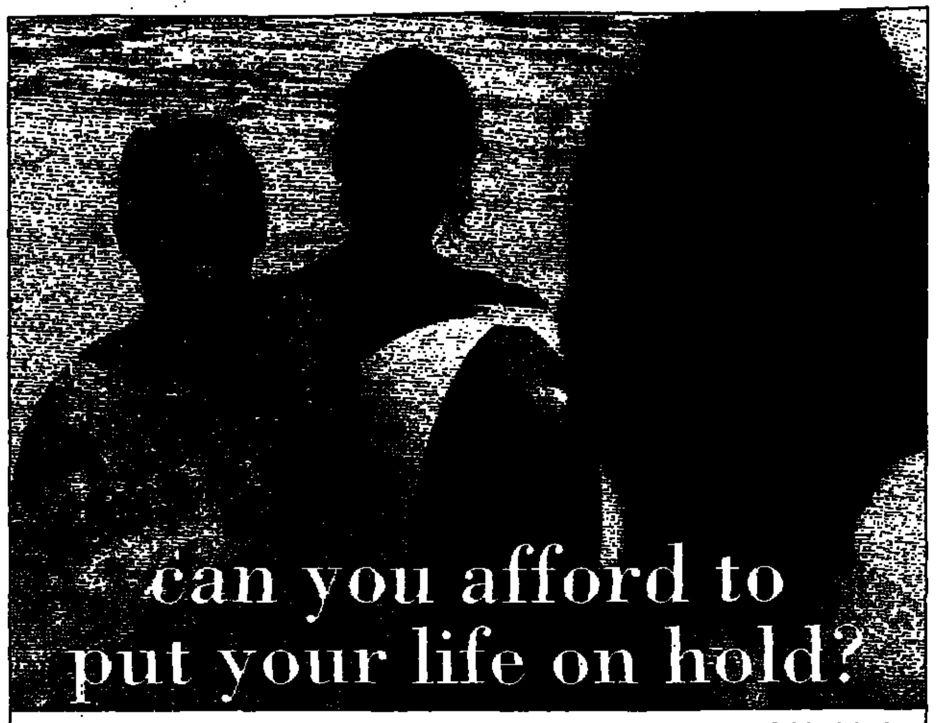
Consumer credit hit record levels in June, rising by £1.28 billion, helped by windfall payouts from building societies. The increases, which reflect higher consumer borrowing, raised expectations of further interest rate rises.

☐ Mortgage lending continues to climb as Bank of England figures showed a 27 per cent annual rise in new mortgage commitments in June. Data from the British Bankers Association showed that mortgage lending was up £2.5 billion, with bank lending to individuals at the highest levels since 1991.

☐ Tighter regulation for the sale of secondhand endowment policies was called for by the Faculty & Institute of Actuaries. The group is concerned that private investors are being overcharged by more than 20 per cent.

☐ An overhaul of the way houses are bought and sold in England and Wales was announced by the Government. The aim is to simplify selling practices, to reduce the time and costs, and cut out gazumping.

☐ Recommended retail prices for a range of electrical products are to be scrapped after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. The change is intended to bring down costs for consumers by encouraging price competition and increasing the supply of goods, ranging from fridges to video recorders, to more shops.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Focusing on the Public Sector

ZURICH MUNICIPAL

Caring victory for the elderly

Age Concern, the charity, has claimed victory after the Court of Appeal ruled this week that local authorities must pay all the nursing home costs of elderly people in their care whose capital has fallen below £10,000.

Age Concern had brought a test case after Sefton council on Merseyside, which was short of funding, had made 87-year-old Charlotte Blanchard pay for her own nursing home care until her savings dropped below £1,500 — the cost of a funeral.

The ruling will be welcome news for the families of elderly people who need care in a residential or nursing home where fees can be as high as £350 and £500 a week.

The judgment comes just a month after the Office of Fair Trading launched an investigation into care homes amid fears that thousands of elderly people might be getting poor value for money for their care. The OFT was also concerned that residents of these homes were being deprived of the right to manage their own finances.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said that the care home industry was worth at least £5 billion a year and catered for more than half a million residents in up to 20,000 homes.

He estimated that at least 25,000 new places would be required in homes within five years. Yet, despite its huge financial and social importance, the sector had never before been the subject of a review from the consumer's point of view.

Mr Bridgeman said: "Elderly people are amongst the most vulnerable consumers and in care homes they may be reliant upon others for all their needs. Many may not know what they can expect in terms of value for money or services."

The high cost of fees has led insurance companies to offer long-term care policies. However, these are expensive and benefits differ greatly between providers so it is often difficult to compare products.

The Government has pledged to establish a Royal Commission to look into the issue of providing nursing home care in the future, but there was no commitment made in the last Budget and any solution could be years away.

In the interim, if your resources total £10,000 to £16,000 you have to pay for a proportion of your care. For those with assets — and that includes property — worth more than £16,000, you have to foot the bill yourself.

Penny O'Nions, a GP and medical insurance broker, believes the optimum time to take out such a policy is between 65 and 70. She said: "Below age 48 the premiums are no cheaper than between 48 and 55, and over age 70 the premiums become very expensive."

She recommends that anyone without children should also take out a policy, because the care provider will be able to intervene in any disputes you might have with the home you are staying in over quality of care.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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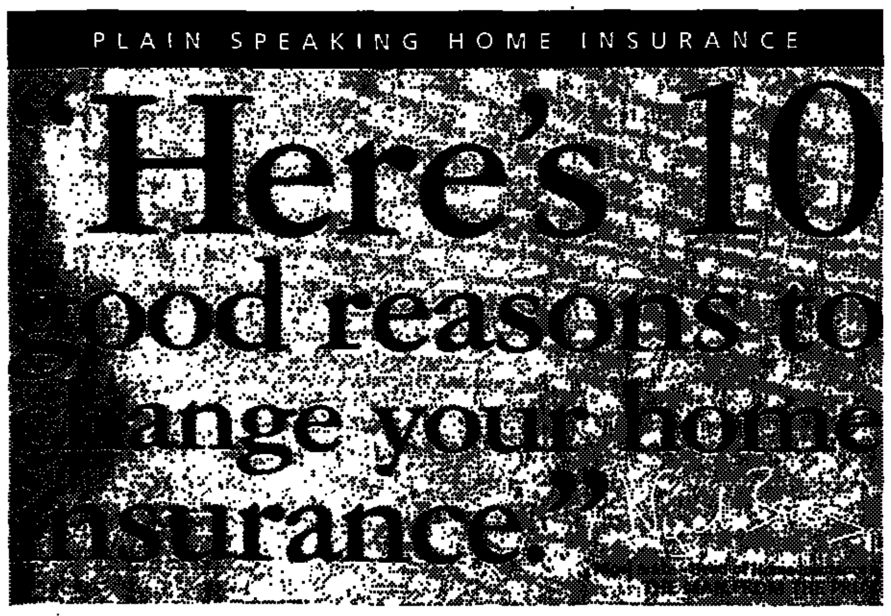

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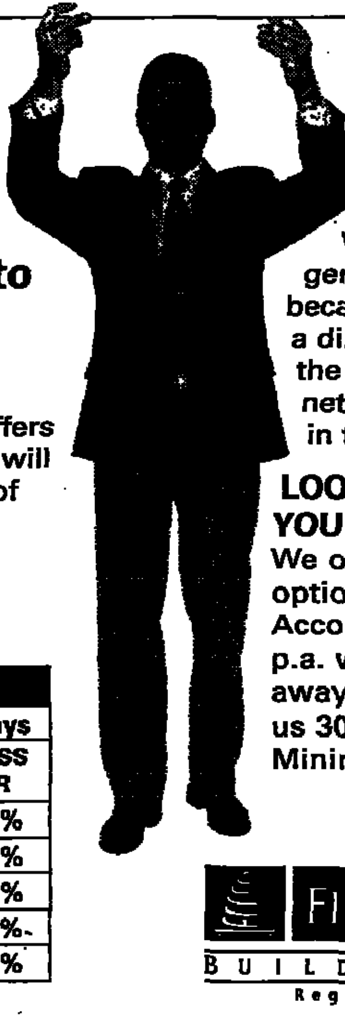

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General Inc	662.10	704.40	+ 9.30	2.22
UK Growth Acc	553.10	588.50	+ 7.70	2.16
UK Growth Inc	353.70	376.30	+ 4.90	2.16
Higher Inc Acc	967.60	1029.40	+ 3.70	4.61
Higher Inc Inc	507.60	540.20	+ 2.10	4.61
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	222.20	234.60	+ 1.00	5.44
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.86	100.10	+ 0.30	5.44
Nth America	428.50	455.90	+13.00	
Europe	445.40	473.90	+ 8.30	
Brit Growth	110.40	117.50	+ 1.40	2.79
Brit Fxd Ints Acc	133.90	142.10	+ 0.10	4.31
Brit Fxd Ints Inc	88.08	93.71	+ 0.09	4.31
Global Opps	117.50	125.00	+ 2.10	
Balanced Acc	72.40	77.03	+ 0.73	2.04
Balanced Inc	66.90	71.18	+ 0.65	2.04
Japan Acc	43.97	46.78	− 0.48	
Pac Basin Acc	419.60	446.40	+16.50	0.65

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	137.40	145.80	+ 0.50	6.30
High Inc Equity	210.00	224.50†	+ 2.20	4.32
Worldwide Bond	266.20	282.30†	− 0.10	3.94
American Growth	516.60	551.70	+20.00	0.30
Asian Pacific	357.00	381.80	+13.10	0.36
Assets & Earnings	326.70	349.40	+ 3.10	2.68
Euro Capital Acc	239.00	255.60	+ 3.50	0.78
Extra Inc	43.67	46.46†	+ 0.10	6.46
General	299.30	318.40†	− 2.00	2.89
Global Opps	84.00	89.36	+ 1.43	0.45
Japan	101.80	108.90	− 1.90	
Managed Inc	51.40	54.68†	+ 0.26	4.11
Mastertrust	192.70	206.10	+ 1.80	1.08
US Emerging Cos	211.40	226.10	+ 6.10	
Ethical	83.73	89.07	+ 0.01	2.05
International	157.90	167.50	+ 3.20	0.52
Dividend & Growth	77.49	82.44†	+ 0.69	4.08
Global Gwth & Sec	77.29	82.56	+ 0.10	2.45
Latin America	101.20	107.70	+ 4.40	0.36
Capital Reserve	149.80	149.80	+ 0.10	4.67

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
M&P UK Growth	106.30	112.90†	+ 1.40	2.06
Equity Income	150.60	160.10	+ 1.50	4.13
Extra Income	287.60	305.90	+ 3.20	5.75
Smaller Cos	102.80	109.30	− 1.20	1.75
International	133.30	141.80	+ 2.30	1.33

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
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	Sell	Buy
Pacific Portfolio	165.32	177.66
UK Equity	110.12	117.52
UK Equity & Bd	83.89	87.71
UK Smlr Cos	50.88	54.42

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Inv Fd Acc	902.15	915.79
Fxd Int Sec Inc	161.26	161.90
Fxd Int Sec Acc	164.92	165.58

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
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Investment Acc	4263.96	4338.40
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Fixed Int Acc	254.39	255.41

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Beck Bio-Tech	38.84	42.10†
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City Fin Intl	97.89	102.79
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	Sell	Buy
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Dragon Growth	77.74	83.14
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-do- Accum	158.85	167.24
Extra Income Inc	27.89	29.34†
Extra Income Acc	32.09	33.67
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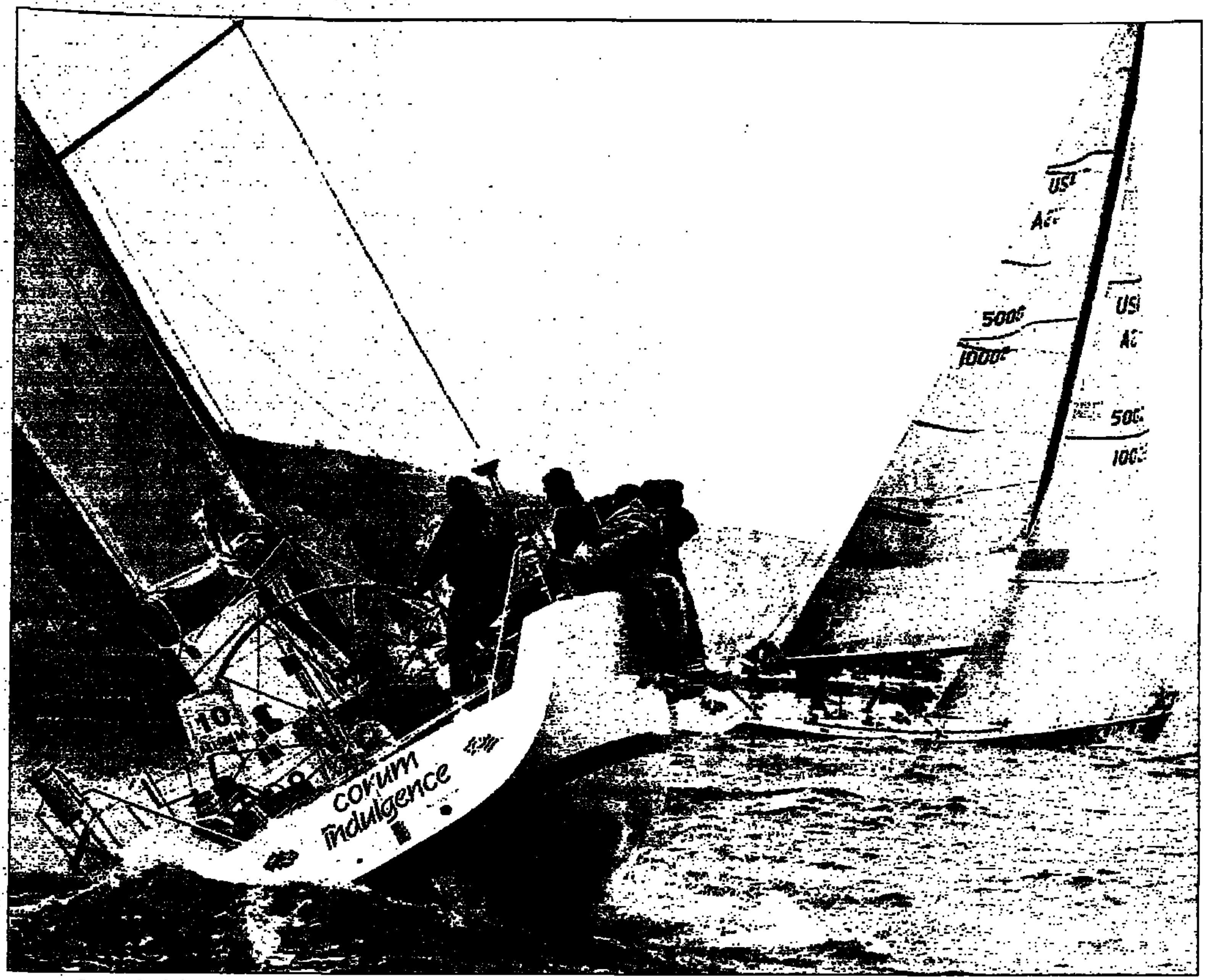
SAILING: MUMM 36 WORLD CHAMPIONS SURRENDER INITIATIVE AS ADMIRAL'S CUP FLEET GOES OFFSHORE

Merricks makes the most of head start

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT



Corum Indulgence, the British entry in the big boat class, shadows Flash Gordon 3 as the fleet approaches the Needles yesterday

ONE would expect better from the world champions in the elite Mumm 36 class than to misunderstand where the start line is at the beginning of the 180-mile Channel Race, the first significant offshore test of the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup series, which started in the Solent yesterday.

Thomas Friese's *Thomas I-Punkt* stormed off at the outer end of the line wrongly believing the West Bramble buoy to be on the line itself. When the starting gun fired on the battlements below the Royal Yacht Squadron, Friese's boat had been over the line proper for more than seven seconds.

To make matters worse, the German boat, skippered by Marcus Wieser, went back after being called as a premature starter on the radio and repeated the same mistake by re-rounding the West Bramble buoy. The Australian Mumm 36, *Sea*, did the same thing. After being warned again that they still had not started legally, Friese and the Australian skipper, Steve Kulmar, turned back a third time and finally started four minutes behind the rest of the fleet.

The mistake seems to underline *Thomas I-Punkt's* less than convincing form since winning a very competitive world championship in Italy last month. Undoubtedly this is the result of crew changes forced on Friese to comply with Admiral's Cup nationality regulations, which stipulate that at least half the crew must be from the nation that the boat represents. The boat has not looked as threatening since.

While Friese and the Australians made a hash of it at the pin end, John Merricks, of Britain, in *Bradamante*, made another good start, finding reasonably clear air in the middle of the line. By the time the fleet reached Hurst Castle at the entrance to the Needles channel, after a brisk beat with the tide in a 20-knot westerly, Merricks was holding first place, just ahead of the Americans in *Jameson*.

By the first mark, 38 miles down the track, Merricks was storming along, having established a ten-minute lead over the Americans. A frustrated Friese was still in last place, nearly 18 minutes behind the British boat.

The Channel Race features a flexi-course set just before the start, with the aim of keeping the fastest boats out for at least 30 hours. Alan Green, the director of racing for the Royal Ocean Racing Club, sent them on a long 35-mile beat out past St Albans Head, before doubling back into Poole Bay. There was then a long downwind sweep along the south shore of the Isle of Wight to round the Nab Tower, before beating back in the early hours of this morning to the finish off Poole.

At the 38-mile mark, the big boat fleet was being led by the New Zealanders, in *Numbers*, with the Syd Fisher Australian entry, *Ragamuffin*, just 20 seconds behind, followed by the American crew in *Flash Gordon 3*, just over a minute farther back. Britain's *Corum Indulgence*, skippered by Chris Law, was another four minutes back in fourth place on the water.

In the ILC 40 fleet, *Easy Oars*, the British boat skippered by Andy Beadsworth, reached Hurst in second place behind *Mean Machine*, of New Zealand. However, four hours into the race, *Easy Oars* had slipped to fifth while the Germans in *Pinta* — the hot boat in the fleet — had climbed to fourth after a poor start.

The Channel Race is the curtain raiser for Skandia Life Cowes Week, which gets under way today with a record 906 yachts in 30 classes entered for the world's biggest and longest-running regatta.

Among the main attractions this year will be a proper maxi class fleet, made up of five of the new Ericsson 80s, together with a couple of one-offs and Mike Slade's *Longobarda* and Hasso Plattner's Sydney to Hobart record-holder, *Morning Glory* — a 79ft Reichel Pugh design.

Most of the maxis took part in the Channel Race and they made a fine sight as they powered up the western Solent. By Hurst Castle, it was Ross Field at the wheel of the Ericsson 80, *Banque de Luxembourg*, who was leading from Ludde Ingvall's transatlantic record-holder, *Nicorette*. *Morning Glory*, with Plattner at the wheel, was racing hard on their heels.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan under no illusions about their task

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ERIC HUGHES has no illusions over the size of Wigan's task as they prepare to tackle Canberra Raiders at Central Park tomorrow. "It will be like taking on Australia," the Warriors coach, whose side crashed 30-4 to a similarly powerful Brisbane Broncos a fortnight ago, said.

Wigan bounced back from that defeat with an exciting win over Canterbury last Monday, but with players of the calibre of Laurie Daley, Ricky Stuart, David Furner, Bradley Clyde and Ken Nagas, Canberra will provide another test of the home side's world club championship ambitions.

"It's a tough call for us," Hughes said. "If you look at them individually, Canberra have got a side good enough to represent Australia.

"It was a surprise that they lost to London. I got the impression that they were perhaps a little complacent and I don't think you will ever see that again. They have got a side that is the envy of every other club side in the world. That's how tough it is for us."

Hughes will give a fitness test to scrum-half Tony Smith, but stand-off Nigel Wright is still missing with a groin injury. Canberra, who are coached by Mal Meninga, will have Royston Lighming, the 19-year-old wing, on the bench.

Leeds can secure top spot in pool B and a play-off to decide the fourth European quarter-finalist when North Queensland visit Headingley tomorrow night. North Queensland's outside chances of grabbing a place in the knockout stages will be dashed if Hunter Mariners complete their anticipated clean sweep at the expense of Sheffield this morning.

Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, said: "We did the club a lot of good with our victory over Adelaide, but it's very important that we show everybody it wasn't a one-off. We will have to play a lot better than we did against Adelaide."

North Queensland are without a complete front row with three players having returned to Australia: Ian Roberts (knee and neck injuries), John Lomax (family bereavement) and Jason Death (disciplinary reasons).

Kelly Shelford, the Warrington stand-off, claims that his side's New Zealand connection will be a trump card when they try to rein in the Auckland Warriors in Christchurch tomorrow. "We're all very keen to do well," Shelford said. "It will be no easy task. But it's a battle that the New Zealanders in the Warrington line-up are looking forward to."

Other New Zealanders in the Warrington side are Nigel Vagana, at centre, Willie Swann, the hooker, Tony Tatupu, in the second-row, and George Mann, at forward.

Bradford Bulls face Cronulla today with only pride at stake. "We're out to salvage some credibility," Matthew Elliott, the coach, said. "Some matches are more important than others — and this is one of them."

Bradford lost heavily in matches Down Under — to Auckland by 50 points and to Penrith by 40. Jeremy Donougher, Bradford's Australian forward, returns after being out for five months with an ankle injury.

Cronulla are keen to win handsomely to ensure their place in the quarter-finals. Much will depend on the centres, where the Bulls' Australian, Danny Peacock, lines up against the veteran Andrew Ettingshausen and young Russell Richardson.

Perth Western Reds defeated Paris Saint-Germain 30-12 in an error-strewn encounter yesterday. Paris must now rely on Leeds losing by more than two points to North Queensland to reach the quarter-finals from pool B.

FORTHCOMING
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The companies listed have registered their golf days for the 1997 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

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1 AUG	CEF MANCHESTER [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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1 AUG	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1 AUG	SEAFORTHS TRAVEL	MURRAYSHALL	72
1 AUG	STANDARD BANK STOCKBROKERS JERSEY	[illegible]	[illegible]
1 AUG	WKD BUILDERS & DEC LTD	THE WARREN	50
2 AUG	RIGBLAST ENERGY SERVICES LIMITED	[illegible]	36
3 AUG	PREBON YAMANE	THE HERTFORDSHIRE	50
5 AUG	RANK LEISURE MACHINE SERVICES	JOHN O'GAUNT	100
5 AUG	RUIA HOLDINGS LTD	DUNHAM FOREST	80
5 AUG	TGA BUILDING CONSULTANCY LTD/TG ARMSTRONG & PARTNERS	KNEBWORTH	30
5 AUG	THE NATIONAL GRID COMPANY PLC	KINGS NORTON	150
6 AUG	B P OIL UK LTD	STOKE POGES	38
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6 AUG	KNOLL PHARMACEUTICALS	BELTON WOODS	50
6 AUG	SHEFFIELD TRAINING & ENTERPRISE COUNCIL	WOODSOME HALL	[illegible]
7 AUG	GENERAL TELECOM	STOKE POGES	65
7 AUG	HYMANS ROBERTSON	ROYAL BURGESS GOLFING SOC. OF EDINBURGH	40
7 AUG	K P M G	WEST HILL	72
7 AUG	KFJ RESOURCING LTD	CRIEFF	36
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National Final shown on
sky sports

BOXING

Rhodes needs stiffer test

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

RYAN RHODES, the British light-middleweight champion, from Sheffield, meets Ed Griffin, of Baltimore, at the Metrodome Leisure Centre, Barnsley, tonight. It should prove an easy night for Rhodes as Griffin is not only out of his class, but the American is also only a welterweight.

Griffin has won 13 of his contests, but his opponents have been of limited ability. One of his defeats was at the hands of a Costa Rican journeyman, Humberto Aranda, in April. In June, Aranda was outpointed by Howard Davies, the 1976 Olympic lightweight champion, now 40.

John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said that he was not too happy about the choice of Griffin who, according to Morris, has had only one bout as a light-middleweight.

Rhodes, 20, is the most exciting British world title prospect. He has won all of his 14 contests, stopping 11 opponents inside the distance.

It is time that his supporters were given the chance to see what he can do against some demanding opposition in his own division. Perhaps it will not be long before he defends his British title against Ensley Bingham, of Manchester, the former British champion. The bout has been ordered by the board.

☐ Naseem Hamed's hopes of a unification match with Luisito Espinosa, the World Boxing Council featherweight champion, have been dealt a blow. Hamed, the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organisation champion, had wanted to meet Espinosa, but the Filipino's manager said that he will instead take on Carlos Rios, of Argentina, in his fifth defence of the title on October 11. It means a frustrating wait for Hamed.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, second day of four
TAUNTON: Somerset v Australians

Tour match
11.0, second day of four
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Pakistan A

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Derbyshire
COLCHESTER: Essex v Leicestershire
COLWYN BAY: Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Sussex
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Kent
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Northamptonshire

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
Dunfermline v Motherwell
St Johnstone v Dundee Utd

First division
Airdrie v St Mirren
Ayr v Greenock Morton
Dundee v Falkirk
Hamilton v Partick
Stirling v Raith

Scottish Coca-Cola Cup
First round
Arbroath v Queen of South
Berwick v Brechin
Cowdenbeath v Alloa (2.0)
Dumbarton v Queen's Park
East Stirling v Stranraer
Forfar v Albion
Inverness CT v Stenhousemuir
Ross County v Montrose

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Burnley v Manchester City; Carlisle v Sunderland; Ipswich v Gillingham; Mansfield v Grimsby; Lincoln v Bristol Rovers; Macclesfield v Stockport; Nottingham Forest v Leeds; Port Vale v Bolton; Swindon v Southampton; Tottenham v Fiorentina; Watford v Wimbledon; West Ham v Queens Park Rangers.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Deveronvale v Wick Academy; Elgin v Buckie Thistle; Forres Mechanics v Cove; Fort William v Lossiemouth; Huntly v Fraserburgh; Keith v Clachnacuddin; Nairn County v Brora; Rothes v Peterhead

RUGBY LEAGUE

World club championship
Pool A
Cronulla v Bradford (5.30am)

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE: Oxford Cavaliers v Birmingham; West London v North London, Worcester Royals v Bedford Swifts.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Scottish men's championship (at Ayr Northfield)

CYCLING: Brough Wheelers invitation ten miles (North Cave, East Yorks, 2.0)

EQUESTRIANISM: British Open horse trials championship (at Gatcombe Park)

GOLF: English Amateur Championship (at Royal Liverpool); Scottish Amateur Championship (at Carnoustie); Welsh Amateur Championship (at Pyle and Kenfig); SPGA Championship (at St Andrews); Senior Masters (at Wentworth).

HOCKEY: Women's representative match: England Under-21 v Clifton (at Bisham Abbey).

MOTOR RALLYING: Ulster Rally

SAILING: Skandia Life Cowes Week.

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bradford v King's Lynn (7.30), Eastbourne v Coventry (7.30); Swindon v Poole (7.30). Premier League: Berwick v Hull (6.30), Stoke v Glasgow (7.30). Amateur League: Mildenhall v Oxford (7.30)

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Ilkley).

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, third day of four
TAUNTON: Somerset v Australians

Tour match
11.0, third day of four
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Pakistan A

Axa Life League
2.0, 40 overs
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Derbyshire
COLCHESTER: Essex v Leicestershire
COLWYN BAY: Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Surrey
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Sussex
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Kent
Noon, 40 overs
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Northamptonshire

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (*first day of two*): Rover, Cowley: Oxfordshire v Cheshire. Pontarddulais: Wales v Herefordshire.

CRICKETER CUP: Final: Bradfield Waifs v Old Tonbridgians (at Roehampton, 11.15)

FOOTBALL

FA Charity Shield
Chelsea v Manchester Utd
(at Wembley, 3.0)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Hibernian v Celtic (12.30)

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Northampton v Leicester (3.0). Sheffield United v Blackburn (3.0). West Bromwich Albion v Aston Villa (3.0)

RUGBY UNION

Graham Dawe testimonial match
Bath XV v Home Nations XV
(at Ashton Gate, Bristol, 3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

World club championship
Pool A
Auckland v Warrington
(at Christchurch, 3.30am)
Wigan v Canberra

Pool B
Hunter v Sheffield (10.30am)
Leeds v North Queensland (8.0)
Salford v Adelaide (6.35)

Divisional Premiership
Cumbria pool
Carlisle v Whitehaven
Workington v Lancashire Lynx

East Yorkshire pool
Featherstone v Hull (6.0)
Hull KR v Wakefield

Lancashire pool
Rochdale v Keighley
Widnes v Leigh
(at Canal St, Runcorn)

West Yorkshire pool
Dewsbury v Huddersfield
Hunslet v Batley (3.30)

ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIP: Castleford v Featherstone, London v Bradford; Salford v Halifax, St Helens v Warrington; Wakefield v Hull, Wigan v Leeds.

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Tour of the Cotswolds international 119 miles (starts 9.45am, finishes Gloucester Park 2.45pm)
EQUESTRIANISM: British Open horse trials championship (at Gatcombe Park)
GOLF: SPGA Championship (at St Andrews); Senior Masters (at Wentworth)
HOCKEY: Women's representative match: England Under-21 v Bracknell (at Bisham Abbey).
MOTORCYCLING: World superbike championship (at Brands Hatch).
MOTOR RACING. British touring car championship (at Knockhill)
MOTOR RALLYING: Ulster Rally
SAILING: Skandia Life Cowes Week.
SPEEDWAY: Four-team championship: Finals: Elite League: Belle Vue v Bradford v Swindon v Peterborough (2.0). Premier League: Long Eaton v Edinburgh v Berwick v Oxford (2.0). Amateur League: Buxton v Ryde (3.0).

ROWING

Bowden takes over at Oxford

OXFORD University announced yesterday that they have appointed Sean Bowden as head coach from next September on a three-year contract (Mike Rosewell writes). Oxford, who have lost the past five Boat Races, will not, however, be parting with René Mijnders, the Dutch Olympic coach who was Oxford's head coach this year.

Bowden, 34, the Great Britain lightweight coach, will be responsible for Oxford's day-to-day coaching while Mijnders will be the senior coach and technical advisor.

Mijnders hinted at a change of role after Oxford's Boat Race defeat last March. "I cannot do it on a full-time basis again," he said. "It has to be something different, but you would need a coach you can work with well." Dan Topolski, who will continue in an advisory capacity concerned with long-term planning, thinks the new duo will make "an ideal partnership".

Penny Chuter, who joined Oxford on a three-year contract in 1994 and coached the 1995 and 1996 crews, will not have her contract renewed.

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

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THE TIMES

RACING: IMPROVING CHARLTON-TRAINED FILLY CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIGH DRAW TO SPRINT CLEAR IN STEWARDS' CUP

Waypoint looks good value in cavalry charge

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE *fifth Duke of Richmond* and Lord George Bentinck have a lot to answer for. In *1839, they conceived the idea of* a competitive sprint handicap at Goodwood, largely as a betting medium, and punters have been hypnotised by the Stewards' Cup ever since — to the delight of the bookmakers.

Instead of giving the annual cavalry charge a wide berth, as anyone *with an ounce of* commonsense should, backers submit yearly to the tempta*tion of trying to find* the winner of arguably the toughest handicap of the season. *Tipsters, it must* be said, are even worse. We invariably burden our selections with the *nap* vote.

A year ago, Coastal Bluff overcame being napped in this column to win and today David Barron's admirable sprinter will attempt to become the first since Sky Diver in the late 1960s to follow up 12 months later.

Only King's Signet and Petong have defied top weight since the war, but that is the least of Coastal Bluff's problems, as he has the physique to carry big weights. Of far greater concern is his low draw and the absence of any horses drawn towards the stands' side who like to force the pace.

In recent years only Soba *and Lochsong have overcome* a low draw and, although Coastal Bluff is almost certain*ly group* class, *the six stall* may prove his undoing. The same applies to Danetime in stall five, especially as the ground is faster than ideal.

With those reservations about the two leading contend*ers in the betting market,* there should be some value to be had from runners from mid*dle to high stalls. To The Roof,* Selhurstpark Flyer, Oggi and Clan Chief will ensure there is a strong pace down the far side.

My shortlist includes Dashing Blue, who recorded his best performance when win*ning at York last time but may* be better over the minimum trip, and My Best Valentine, *who is probably the best* handicapped horse in the race, but is arguably best when giving away weight to inferior rivals.

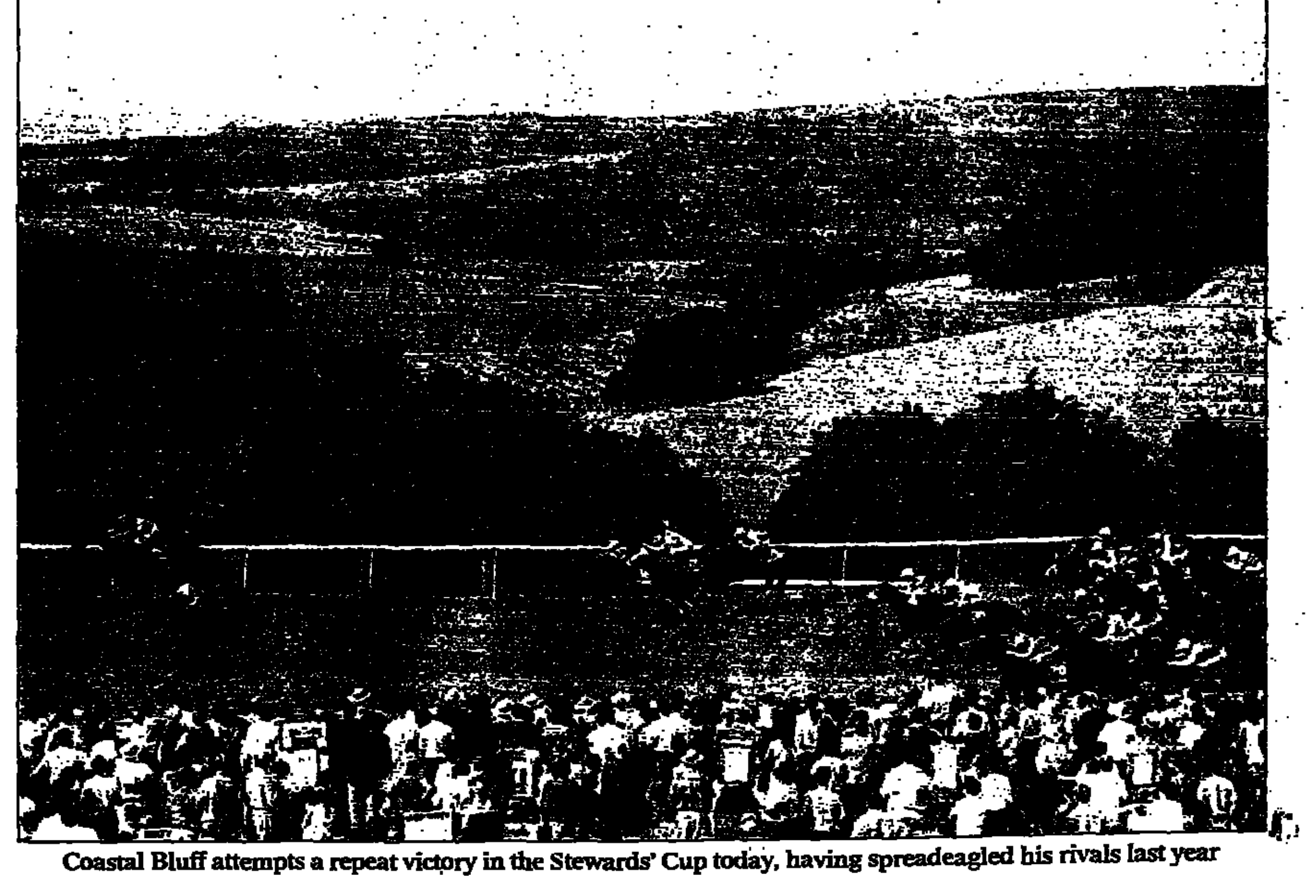
However, I have settled on **Waypoint**, despite the fact that most of her form has been over seven furlongs. Roger Charlton's improving filly started the campaign winning over six furlongs on Lingfield's all-weather track. She has won twice since, including a fast-run race at Newbury 15 days ago. Due to race off an 8lb higher mark in future events, this genuine filly wears a visor for the first time to sharpen her up for this distance.

Given the likely fast pace, I *hope that the promising rider* Royston Ffrench can lay up with the pace on the far side *before delivering his challenge* inside the final furlong. At 16-1 with Coral, she looks worth a wager.

Ian Balding invariably has his string in top form for this meeting and so it has proved this week. The Kingsclere trainer looks to have a good chance of adding to his haul with **Merlin's Ring** in the Vodafone Nursery (2.45). The Magic Ring colt justified heavy support to open his account in a fast-run race at York three weeks ago, and is strongly fancied to follow up.

Last Second, winner of the Vodafone Nassau Stakes (3.20) 12 months ago, has not run since being tailed off behind Helissio in April. While Sir Mark Prescott is sure to have this fragile filly in good order, I prefer the claims of the game **Ryafan**, who showed typical battling qualities to land the Falmouth Stakes at Newmarket last time. She should appreciate today's extra quarter mile.

Although the television cameras are not covering the *finale at Goodwood,* **Dancing Image** is expected to oblige now that he takes a drop in *class and returns to his best* trip of seven furlongs.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Coastal Bluff attempts a repeat victory in the Stewards' Cup today, having spreadeagled his rivals last year

GOODWOOD

THUNDERER

2.15 Faithful Son
2.45 **FAYRANA** (nap)
3.20 Entice
3.50 Wildwood Flower
4.25 Sausalito Bay
5.00 Designer
5.35 Dancing Image

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.20 Ryafan. 3.50 Danetime.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up. U — unseated rider B — brought down. S — slipped up R — refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name Days since last outing. J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers V — visor H — hood E — Eyeshield C — course winner D — distance winner CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 7F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.15 VODAFONE CONDITIONS STAKES
(3-Y-O: £13,256. 1m) (6 runners)

101 (1) 112 FAITHFUL SON 56 (BF,D,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 9-2 J Reid [illegible]
102 (3) 41-302 CAPE CROSS 7 (BF,D,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-12 L Dettori 85
103 (2) -050063 OMAHA CITY 1 (F) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 8-12 A Clark 92
104 (6) 2-12520 RUNNING STAG 46 (D Cromson) P Mitchell 8-12 Pat Eddery 92
105 (4) 214-14 DRAGONADA 24 (F,S) (Niarchos Family) H Cecil 8-11 K Fallon 91
106 (5) 13 KENMIST 17 (S) (Dr U Facanotti) L Cumani 8-7 K Darley 92

BETTING: 7-4 Faithful Son, 2-1 Cape Cross, 7-2 Dragonada, 6-1 Running Stag, 14-1 Omaha City, 25-1 Kenmist.

1996: HAMMERSTEIN 9-2 Pat Eddery (5-1) M Stoute 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

FAITHFUL SON ½l 2nd of 9 to Polar Prince in group III Vodafone Diomed Stakes at Epsom (1m 114yd, good). CAPE CROSS neck 2nd of 9 to Blessed Spirit in ladies race at Ascot (1m, soft). RUNNING STAG 2½l 2nd of 6 to Grapeshot in listed race here (1m 2f, good). DRAGONADA 8¾l 4th of 7 to Ryafan in group II Falmouth Stakes at Newmarket (1m, good to firm). KENMIST 3¾l 3rd to Imroz in conditions race at Yarmouth (7f, good)
Selection: CAPE CROSS

2.45 VODAFONE NURSERY HANDICAP
BBC1

(2-Y-O: £11,275: 7f) (12 runners)

201 (6) 33311 THE RICH MAN 19 (D,G,S) (Marston Stud) B Hills 9-7 M Hills 95
202 (9) 01116 SHAWDON 27 (F,G) (C Humphris) M Prescott 9-6 G Duffield 98
203 (2) 21 MERLIN'S RING 21 (F) (Mrs R Plummer & Partners) I Balding 9-5 L Dettori 93
204 (12) 51 MANTLES STAR 23 (D) (D Barker) G Lewis 9-2 Paul Eddery 90
205 (8) 60221 FAYRANA 21 (D,G) (Racegoers Club Owners Group (1997)) J Hills 9-0 K Fallon [illegible]
206 (3) 01324 GYPSY HILL 33 (S) (K Nyazson) D Haydn Jones 8-13 S Drowne 95
207 (4) 00014 KING DARIUS 16 (S) (E Perry) R Hannon 8-12 Dane O'Neill 90
208 (1) 051 BELLOW 24 (D,G) (J Macdonald-Buchanan & Ptnrs) H Morrison 8-6 C Lowther (5) 94
209 (11) 345 MOHAWK 33 (J Darby) J Dunlop 8-6 D Biggs 98
210 (5) 064 PERSIAN VENTURE 18 (Mrs B Bell) B Meehan 8-5 K Darley 93
211 (7) 5040 RED MAPLE 21 (B) (T Neill) P Cole 8-4 F Norton 97
212 (10) 004 BLUEBERRY 9 (G Stenberg) S Dow 8-4 J F Egan 98

BETTING: 4-1 Merlin's Ring, 5-1 Shawdon, 6-1 The Rich Man, 7-1 Fayrana, 8-1 Mantles Star, 10-1 King Darius, Bellow 12-1 others

1996: DOUBLE PARK 9-7 J Reid (4-1) M Johnston 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

THE RICH MAN completed double beat Jacmar 3l in 7-runner nursery at Ayr (7f, good to firm). SHAWDON beat D'Marti ¾l in 7-runner auction novices' race at Ripon (5f, good) on penultimate start. MERLIN'S RING beat Requestor 1¾l in 14-runner auction maiden at York (6f, good to firm). MANTLES STAR beat Danzig Flyer neck in 7-runner auction maiden at Lingfield (AW, 7f). FAYRANA beat Universal Lady head in 12-runner auction maiden at Warwick (7f, good to firm). GYPSY HILL about 1¾l 4th of 7 to Hoh Chi Min in conditions race at Windsor (6f, good to soft) with BLUEBERRY (4lb better off) about 9¼l 7th. BELLOW beat Sick As A Parrot 3l in 13-runner seller at Newmarket (7f, good to firm)
Selection: SHAWDON

3.20 VODAFONE NASSAU STAKES
BBC1

(Group II: £48,911: 1m 2f) (7 runners)

301 (2) 5110-51 GREY WAY 56 (D,F,G,S) (Grundy Bloodstock Ltd) J Dunlop 4-9-1 K Darley 90
302 (6) 1/211-0 LAST SECOND 97 (CD,F,G,S) (F Salman) M Prescott 4-9-1 G Duffield [illegible]
303 (1) 2224-12 PAPERING 48 (C,D,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 4-9-1 Pat Eddery 92
304 (5) 121-441 RYAFAN 24 (G,S) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 3-8-9 M Hills 98
305 (7) 011-4 ENTICE 81 (G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 3-8-6 L Dettori 86
306 (3) 313-356 ETOILE 20 (F) (M Abdullah) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-6 J Reid 93
307 (4) 61106 MAID OF CAMELOT 28 (CD,F,S) (A Oppenheimer) R Charlton 3-8-6 T Sprake 76

BETTING: 5-4 Last Second, 11-4 Ryafan, 5-1 Papering, 7-1 Etoile, 10-1 Entice, 20-1 Grey Way, Maid Of Camelot.

1996: LAST SECOND 3-8-6 G Duffield (7-4 fav) M Prescott 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

GREY WAY 5l 5th of 8 to Artan in group I Premio Presidente Della Repubblica at Capannelle, Rome (1m 2f, good). LAST SECOND 19l 7th of 8 to Helissio in group I Prix Ganay at Longchamp (1m 2f 11yd, soft). PAPERING neck 2nd of 6 to Tulipa in group III Premio Legnano at San Siro, Milan (1m 4f, good). RYAFAN beat Ocean Ridge ¾l in group II Amcor Falmouth Stakes at Newmarket (1m, good to firm). ETOILE about 2¾l 5th of 12 to Reams Of Verse in group I Vodafone Oaks at Epsom (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start. MAID OF CAMELOT best recent effort beat Priena 1¾l in 7-runner listed race over course and distance (good).
Selection: RYAFAN

3.50 VODAFONE STEWARDS CUP
BBC1

(Handicap: £48,250: 6f) (30 runners)

401 (6) 0111-51 COASTAL BLUFF 8 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs D Sharp) T Barron 5-9-10 K Darley 93
402 (29) -256465 TO THE ROOF 28 (BF,D,F,G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 5-9-5 C Lowther (5) 86
403 (22) -306600 SYLVA PARADISE 28 (B,D,F,S) (E Grimstead Ltd) C Dwyer 4-9-3 B Doyle 87
404 (30) -020521 DASHING BLUE 22 (D,F,G) (Mrs D Allen) I Balding 4-9-2 L Dettori 94
405 (20) 0-22315 SELHURSTPARK FLYER 38 (C,D,F,S) (C Deuters) J Berry 6-9-0 P Roberts (5) 90
406 (26) 0350-46 LOCH PATRICK 90 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Miss E Collet) M Madgwick 7-8-10 G Duffield 89
407 (5) 2-00021 DANETIME 25 (D,F,G) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) N Callaghan 3-8-10 Pat Eddery 94
408 (18) 42-0501 NIGRASINE 28 (D,F,G) (M Gleeson) J Eyre 3-8-9 Dean McKeown 92
409 (23) 4405251 MY BEST VALENTINE 28 (F,G,S) (Valentines) V Soane 7-8-9 R Cochrane [illegible]
410 (15) 0250013 TADEO 7 (BF,F,G,S) (J Good) M Johnston 4-8-9 K M Chin (3) 93
411 (25) 5-00303 WILDWOOD FLOWER 36 (CD,F,G) (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 4-8-8 Dane O'Neill 89
412 (9) 3040046 KING OF PERU 21 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M McClean) N Littmoden 4-8-8 K Fallon 93
413 (28) -002531 YORKIE GEORGE 17 (D,G,S) (M Dawson) L Cumani 3-8-7 J Reid 92
414 (16) 21-5010 TRIPLE HAY 49 (D,G) (Broadgate Partnership) R Hannon 3-8-5 M Henry (3) 87
415 (1) 0055043 HELLO MISTER 14 (CD,F,G,S) (B Mitten) T Powell 6-8-3 M Hills 98
416 (11) 0-54134 SHARP HAT 49 (D,F,G,S) (J Smith) R Hannon 3-8-2 J F Egan 86
417 (4) 800-600 DOUBLE BOUNCE 23 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) P Makin 7-8-2 M Roberts 85
418 (10) 5532010 SEA-DEER 22 (C,D,F,G,S) (M Foulger) C Dwyer 8-8-1 S Drowne 90
419 (27) 1-10144 OGGI 21 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 6-8-1 A Munro 90
420 (17) 6111250 SQUIRE CORRIE 19 (D,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 5-8-0 P Fessey (3) 90
421 (14) 5201100 WHITE EMIR 17 (B,F,G,S) (Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 4-7-12 D Biggs 85
422 (13) 0022342 SIR JOEY 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 8-7-11 J Lowe 93
423 (21) 121-450 CLAN CHIEF 17 (CD,F,G) (P Lowe) J Arnold 4-7-11 G Bardwell 86
424 (19) -123121 WAYPOINT 15 (V,D,F) (R Richards) R Charlton 4-7-10 R Ffrench (3) 97
425 (8) 2140002 KILCULLEN LAD 9 (V,D,F) (G Tobitt) P Mooney 3-7-10 N Adams 87
426 (12) 0120214 INTIAASH 7 (D,F,S) (R Howard Thomas) D Haydn Jones 5-7-10 N Varley 83
427 (2) 201-041 FARAWAY LASS 21 (D,F,G) (J Royal) Lord Huntingdon 4-7-10 M Demuro 96
428 (7) 1004101 THE GAY FOX 22 (F,S) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 3-7-10 J Fowle (7) 87
429 (24) 3313426 WILLOW DALE 10 (D,F,S) (M Jackson Ltd) D Elsworth 4-7-10 F Norton 88
430 (3) -040121 NO EXTRAS 4 (CD,F,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 7-7-10 (7ex) D Williams (7) 87

Long handicap: Kilcullen Lad 7-8, Intiaash 7-8, Faraway Lass 7-8, The Gay Fox 7-5, Willow Dale 7-5, No Extras 7-2

BETTING: 6-1 Danetime, 7-1 Coastal Bluff, 8-1 My Best Valentine, 12-1 Waypoint, 14-1 Oggi, 16-1 Dashing Blue, Hello Mister, 20-1 Clan Chief, Double Bounce, Loch Patrick, Sir Joey, Yorkie George, 25-1 others.

1996: COASTAL BLUFF 4-8-5 J Fortune (10-1 jt-fav) T Barron 30 ran

FORM FOCUS

COASTAL BLUFF beat Easycall neck in conditions race at Newmarket (5f, good). DASHING BLUE beat Crofters Ceilidh 1l in 14-runner handicap at York (5f, good) with SQUIRE CORRIE (3lb better off) *about 2½l 5th. TADEO (3lb better off) 3¼l 7th* and SEA-DEER (3lb better off) 5l 14th. SELHURSTPARK FLYER beat DANETIME (6lb worse off) head in 30-runner Wokingham Handicap at Royal Ascot (6f, good to soft) on penultimate start, with OGGI (5lb better off) 1½l 4th, TO THE ROOF (6lb better off) neck and 1½l 6th, KING OF PERU (8lb better off) 1½l 7th, WILDWOOD FLOWER (9lb better off) 1l 8th, DOUBLE BOUNCE (7lb better off) short-head 10th, SEA-DEER (5lb better off) 1l 15th and HELLO MISTER (8lb better off) 4½l 19th. DANETIME beat Elnadim 2l in 10-runner handicap at Newmarket (6f, good) with THE GAY FOX 9¾l 8th. NIGRASINE beat Restless Spirit head in 9-runner handicap at Haydock (6f, good). YORKIE GEORGE beat Infiaab 2½l in 10-runner handicap at Yarmouth (7f, good) *with HELLO MIS*TER (4lb better off) neck and short-head 4th. HELLO MISTER 1¾l 3rd of 14 to Hattab in listed race at Newbury (6f, good to firm). SIR JOEY short-head 2nd of 16 to Literary Society in handicap at Newbury (6f, good to firm). WAYPOINT beat Sheltering Sky 1¾l in handicap at Newbury (7f, good to firm). FARAWAY LASS beat Benzoe head in handicap at York (6f, good to firm) with OGGI (5lb better off) 3l 4th. *NO EXTRAS beat Clouds Hill 2l in* handicap here (1m, good to firm).
Selection: DANETIME (nap)

TOMORROW'S MEETINGS: Chester (2.30 - 5.00), Chepstow (Tote Jackpot meeting, 2.10 - 5.10), Newcastle (2.20 - 4.50).

4.25 TURF CLUB RATED HANDICAP
(3-Y-O. £10,099: 1m 6f) (14 runners)

501 (9) 4-42106 FLIRTING AROUND 35 (D,G) (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 9-7 J Reid 91
502 (1) 411 KILMA 36 (F,G) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) L Cumani 9-4 Pat Eddery 95
503 (8) 012 MILLY OF THE VALLY 38 (S) (Cliveden Stud) H Cecil 9-2 K Fallon 93
504 (4) 51-4302 SAUSALITO BAY 22 (S) (J Smith) I Balding 9-1 R Cochrane 95
505 (7) 06-4212 THORNBY PARK 30 (BF,CD,S) (Appleby Lodge Stud) J Dunlop 9-0 T Sprake 91
506 (11) -841121 RIGHT MAN 29 (D,G,S) (G Wright) G Lewis 8-10 Paul Eddery 97
507 (10) 23-63 SNOW PARTRIDGE 22 (M Abdul) P Cole 8-10 K Darley 94
508 (2) 1162 DOMINANT DUCHESS 28 (F,G) (Mrs D Paterson) J Hills 8-6 M Hills 92
509 (13) 02431 GEORGIA VENTURE 17 (D,G) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 8-6 G Duffield 93
510 (14) 4-32 LIFFRE 31 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-6 L Dettori 93
511 (12) 2-24140 PROTOCOL 38 (F) (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) J Hills 8-4 M Henry (3) 96
512 (6) 5-146 BRAND NEW DANCE 30 (J Gutkin) D Arbuthnot 8-4 M Roberts 95
513 (3) -111254 RAMIKE 7 (D,F,S) (Miss B Lee) M Johnston 8-4 B Doyle [illegible]
514 (5) 0002050 WHAT HAPPENED WAS 12 (F) (Beyts Livestock Ltd) M Meade 8-4 F Norton 95

Long handicap: Brand New Dance 8-3, Ramike 8-3, What Happened Was 7-12.

BETTING: 9-2 Kilma, 6-1 Georgia Venture, 7-1 Milly Of The Vally, Right Man, 8-1 Thornby Park, Dominant Duchess, Liffre, 10-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

FORM FOCUS

FLIRTING AROUND 13½l 6th of 18 to Windsor Castle in handicap at Newcastle (2m, heavy). KILMA completed double beat Heart Of Gold short-head in 7-runner handicap at Newcastle (1m 4f 93yd, good). MILLY OF THE VALLY beat Vicki Romara 2½l in 8-runner maiden at Thirsk (1m 4f, soft) with GEORGIA VENTURE (10lb better off) 10l 4th. THORNBY PARK 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Foreign Rule *in handicap at Haydock (1m 6f, good to soft) with* BRAND NEW DANCE (3lb better off) 13¾l 6th. RIGHT MAN beat RAMIKE (12lb better off) 10l in 8-runner handicap at Sandown (2m 78yd, good to soft). DOMINANT DUCHESS 2l 2nd of 5 to Jazz King in conditions race at Windsor (1m 3f 135yd, good). LIFFRE neck and 4l 3rd of 8 to Badge Of Fame in maiden at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: KILMA

5.00 EBF RICHARD BAERLEIN MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £7,068: 6f) (10 runners)

601 (2) ADJUTANT (J Good) B Meehan 9-0 Dean McKeown –
602 (7) DESIGNER (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 L Dettori –
603 (5) ELHABUB (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 9-0 M Hills –
604 (6) GOLDEN REPRIMAND (G Teo) R Hannon 9-0 Pat Eddery –
605 (4) RUBAMMA (H al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 9-0 R Cochrane –
606 (10) SILVERSMITH (D Churston) S Dow 9-0 J F Egan –
607 (9) SURVEYOR (Earl Cadogan) J Dunlop 9-0 J Reid –
608 (8) TAMARISK (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) R Charlton 9-0 T Sprake –
609 (3) THE DOWNTOWN FOX (G Whitaker) B McMahon 9-0 G Duffield –
610 (1) SILCA KEY SERVICE (Aldridge Racing Ltd) M Channon 8-9 B Doyle –

BETTING: 11-4 Elhabub, 7-2 Designer, 5-1 Golden Reprimand, 7-1 Surveyor, 8-1 Rubamma, 10-1 others.

1996: THE WEST 9-0 T Quinn (4-7 fav) P Cole 7 ran

5.35 TRUNDLE LIMITED STAKES (£6,985: 7f) (7 runners)

1 (5) 3101054 ALBERT THE BEAR 22 (D,F,S) (C Deuters) J Berry 4-9-6 C Lowther (5) 98
2 (3) 122-246 DANCING IMAGE 17 (BF,F,G) (The Queen) I Balding 4-9-2 L Dettori [illegible]
3 (7) 5-50510 DIVINA LUNA 2 (D,F,G) (D Deer) J Hills 4-9-1 M Henry (3) 95
4 (4) 661-056 PRENDS CA 29 (C,D,F,G,S) (B Bull) W Muir 4-8-13 Dane O'Neill 97
5 (2) 140-032 VOLLEY 14 (F) (R Villiers) D Chappell 4-8-13 K Darley 94
6 (1) 04-1002 HAWAIT 18 (BF,D,F) (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 3-8-12 M Hills 95
7 (6) 1- MASHHAER 303 (D,F) (H al-Maktoum) M Stoute 3-8-10 J Reid 83

BETTING: 9-4 Mashhaer, 11-4 Dancing Image, 4-1 Hawait, 6-1 Divina Luna, Volley, 8-1 Albert The Bear, Prends Ca.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

FORM FOCUS

ALBERT THE BEAR 2l 4th of 6 to Brilliant Red in conditions race at Lingfield (7f 140yd, good to firm). DANCING IMAGE best effort this term ¾l 2nd of 15 to Gadge in handicap over course and distance (good) with ALBERT THE BEAR (5lb worse off) 10¼l 12th. DIVINA LUNA beat VOLLEY (2lb better off) ¾l in 10-runner conditions race at Warwick (7f, good to firm) on penultimate start. PRENDS CA 5¼l 6th of 7 to Za-Im in conditions race at Haydock (6f, good). HAWAIT ½l 2nd of 8 to Cee-N-K in handicap at Beverley (7f 100yd, good to firm). MASHHAER beat Courtship 1¼l in maiden at Newmarket (7f, good to firm).
Selection: DANCING IMAGE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S bin Suroor	7	26	26.9	Pat Eddery	42	211	19.9
M Stoute	23	89	25.8	L Dettori	31	185	16.8
H Cecil	21	95	22.1	J Reid	38	253	15.0
P Cole	27	127	21.3	K Fallon	6	40	15.0
J Gosden	21	122	17.2	M Roberts	20	139	14.4
L Cumani	14	88	15.9	M Hills	18	134	13.4

Rebecca Sharp has Deauville objective

REBECCA SHARP, trained by Geoff Wragg and ridden by Michael Hills, and Godolphin's Ocean Ridge, the mount of Frankie Dettori, are in action at Deauville tomorrow. The first and second in the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot contest the group two £33,670 Prix d'Astarte over a mile. The David Elsworth-trained Supercal (John Reid) completes the British challenge in a nine-strong field.

On the same programme, *Whitewater Affair,* representing Michael Stoute and ridden by Reid, faces six locally-trained opponents in the group two £33,670 *Prix de* Pomone over an extended one mile five furlongs.

At Munich tomorrow, *the* Clive Brittain-trained Needle Gun (Brett Doyle) and Dermot Weld's *Dance Design* (Michael Kinane) tackle the group one Bayerisches Zuchtrennen over ten furlongs.

Arabian Story, owned by the Queen, runs in the £59,583 *Scandinavian Open* Championship over 1½ miles at Klampenborg, Copenhagen, *tomorrow. Ela-Aristokrati* and Harbour Dues are the other British raiders in a 12-*runner field.*

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Ripon (first race, 2.30), Newton Abbot (2.15), Carlisle (6.20), Windsor (6.05).

TUESDAY: Catterick (2.15), Folkestone (2.00).

WEDNESDAY: Brighton (2.15), Newcastle (2.30), Epsom (Sky, 6.00), Nottingham (Sky, 6.10), Yarmouth (5.50).

THURSDAY: Bath (2.30), Pontefract (2.15).

FRIDAY: Salisbury (2.00), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.20), Haydock Park (Sky, 6.10), Newmarket (Sky, 6.00), Market Rasen (2.10).

SATURDAY: Ayr (2.25), Haydock Park (BBC, 2.15), Newmarket (C4, 2.00), Redcar (2.10), Lingfield Park (AW, Sky, 5.50), Worcester (Sky, 6.05).

SUNDAY: Epsom (2.00), Redcar (2.10), Yarmouth (2.20).

Flat meetings in bold

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CHESTER	101	201
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NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

2.00 Mijana. 2.30 Arriving. 3.05 Kheyrah. 3.35 Blewbury Hill. 4.10 Whisky Mac. 4.40 Wathbat Nashwan.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
4.10 JAY GEE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
2.00 ALMUTAWAKEL (nap).

GOING: GOOD SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 HERO CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £5,553: 7f) (3 runners)

1 (2) 1 ALMUTAWAKEL 28 (D,S) S bin Suroor 9-1 R Hills 93
2 (1) 1 MIJANA 106 (G) J Gosden 9-1 G Hind 95
3 (3) 102 BELLADERA 8 (BF,G) N Tinkler 8-10 W Ryan [illegible]

11-10 Almutawakel, 6-5 Mijana, 9-2 Belladera.

2.30 YE OLDE OAK HOT DOG HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £4,208: 1m 4f) (15)

1 (6) 4116 SCARROTS 44 (BF,D,F,G) S C Williams 9-7 D Holland 95
2 (11) 501- PIETRO BEMBO 389 (F) M Prescott 9-6 S Sanders 87
3 (13) 665 ALPINA 31 J Gosden 9-4 G Hind 98
4 (3) 5523 SWING WEST 22 P Cole 9-2 M Rimmer 95
5 (7) 6123 ARRIVING 22 (BF,G) J Hills 9-2 R Hills 98
6 (15) 0030 PERSIAN BLUE 50 R Hannon 9-2 W J O'Connor 94
7 (14) 2445 RARE TALENT 22 M Channon 9-1 A Culhane 98
8 (8) 000 PRINCE ALEX 19 A Stewart 9-0 S Whitworth 91
9 (2) 6444 SARBARON 17 P Harris 8-12 G Carter 90
10 (12) 030 SPICK AND SPAN 35 C Thornton 8-4 J Stack [illegible]
11 (9) 0004 FLOTILLA 14 S Mellor 8-4 A McGlone 94
12 (1) 0062 BEWITCHING LADY 22 D Arbuthnot 7-13 R Mullen (5) 96
13 (5) -406 FRANKIE 22 M Tompkins 7-13 Dale Gibson 94
14 (4) 950 PEMBERLEY 23 W Haggas 7-12 J Quinn 95
15 (10) 2453 KEEPSAKE 8 M Usher 7-11 R Street 98

3-2 Pietro Bembo, 11-2 Arriving, 8-1 Scarrots, 10-1 Alpina, Swing West, Persian Blue, Rare Talent, Sarbaron, Bewitching Lady, 12-1 others

3.05 E B F CARTERS SOFT DRINKS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,110: 6f) (13)

1 (7) 06 AL MABROOK 3 K Mahdi 9-0 D Holland –
2 (1) CONFIRMATION M Prescott 9-0 C Nutter –
3 (4) FREE OPTION B Hanbury 9-0 J Stack –
4 (12) 6 FRITTON 17 M Tompkins 9-0 Dale Gibson –
5 (9) GOLDEN DICE H Cecil 9-0 W Ryan –
6 (3) HAKEEM R Armstrong 9-0 R Price –
7 (11) 0 IMSHISHWAY 7 B Meehan 9-0 M Tebbutt –
8 (2) PAARL ROCK D Loder 9-0 P McCabe (3) –
9 (5) TEAPOT ROW J Toller 9-0 S Sanders –
10 (13) WALPOLE D Loder 9-0 C Hodgson –
11 (6) FRIENDLY WARNING J Banks 8-9 J Quinn –
12 (8) GREEBA R Hannon 8-9 W J O'Connor –
13 (10) KHEYRAH E Dunlop 8-9 R Hills –

11-4 Golden Dice, 9-2 Kheyrah, 11-2 Hakeem, 13-2 Confirmation, 7-1 Walpole, 8-1 Free Option, Greeba, 10-1 others

3.35 YE OLDE OAK ANY TIME SNACKS HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £4,698: 1m) (14)

1 (14) -101 RAAHA 17 (D,G,S) R Armstrong 9-7 R Hills 93
2 (5) 4000 FOOT BATTALION 24 (D,G) R Hollinshead 9-3 D Griffiths (3) 96
3 (5) 4462 BLEWBURY HILL 16 R Johnson Houghton 9-2 S Sanders 96
4 (10) 22-3 SILK ST JOHN 31 M Ryan 9-2 G Carter 94
5 (8) 1601 MERCILESS COP 14 (B,D,F,G) B Meehan 9-1 M Tebbutt 92
6 (1) 06-2 QUIBBLING 26 H Candy 9-0 A McGlone 93
7 (13) 616 LIQUID GOLD 17 (D,S) W O'Gorman 9-0 Emma O'Gorman 91
8 (7) 0000 MALADERIE 49 (F) M Chapman 8-10 A Culhane [illegible]
9 (3) 443 MONACO 35 (BF) L Cumani 8-9 D Holland 98
10 (2) 1566 SWIFT 5 (D,F,G) M Polglase 8-9 J Tate 96
11 (11) 554 REEDS 17 J Fanshawe 8-7 N Day 85
12 (12) -342 STAR TURN 8 M Bell 8-3 M Fenton 93
13 (4) -562 GO FOR GREEN 17 Dr J Scargill 8-2 D O'Donohoe (3) 94
14 (9) 5061 CHEROKEE FLIGHT 8 (F) S Mellor 8-2 J Quinn 98

11-2 Merciless Cop, 6-1 Raaha, 7-1 Silk St John, Monaco, 8-1 Blewbury Hill, Quibbling, 10-1 Star Turn, Go For Green, 12-1 others.

4.10 HERO DRINKS NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £17,220: 6f) (16)

1 (7) 3341 WHISKY MACK 16 (D,S) R Hannon 9-7 W J O'Connor 89
2 (11) 421 HAPPY DAYS AGAIN 26 (G) J Wharton 9-4 R Mullen (5) 86
3 (8) 6331 COMPOSITION 25 (D,G) M Jarvis 9-2 W Ryan 89
4 (4) 0140 FIVEO'CLOCK SHADOW 14 (B,D,S) B Meehan 9-1 M Tebbutt 80
5 (12) 203 DIAMOND WHITE 8 G Bravery 9-1 D R McCabe 84
6 (3) 6031 JAY GEE 12 (D,F) G Margarson 9-0 G Carter [illegible]
7 (10) 310 MINETTA 43 (D,F) M Bell 8-12 M Fenton 80
8 (5) 2210 PHONE ALEX 14 (G) R Hannon 8-11 A Whelan (3) 83
9 (14) 322 CLEF OF SILVER 11 W Jarvis 8-9 R Hills 90
10 (6) 316 STATELY PRINCESS 67 (F) M Channon 8-9 A Culhane 80
11 (2) 343 LEOFRIC 14 (B) M Polglase 8-7 J Tate 89
12 (9) 6032 MAMORA BAY 7 (V) M Tompkins 8-6 Dale Gibson 90
13 (16) 6002 KENNET 8 P Cundell 8-5 J Quinn 91
14 (15) 004 TIGHTROPE 11 M Prescott 7-13 – 91
15 (1) 142 LASHAM 52 (BF,F) N Callaghan 7-13 A Polli (5) 88
16 (13) 0001 ACID TEST 22 (D,F) W Muir 7-11 M Baird (3) 92

6-1 Whisky Mack, 7-1 Composition, Clef Of Silver, 10-1 Happy Days Again, Minetta, Phone Alex, Mamora Bay, Tightrope, 12-1 others.

4.40 READY RICE HANDICAP
(£5,580: 1m 2f) (9)

1 (4) 414- MOHAWK RIVER 278 (D,G) M Stoute 4-10-0 S Sanders 90
2 (6) 0432 BARDON HILL BOY 9 (CD,F) B Hanbury 5-9-9 M Rimmer 93
3 (2) 1314 VOLA VIA 24 (D,F,S) I Balding 4-9-7 S Whitworth 95
4 (7) 5130 BAY OF ISLANDS 21 (D,F) D Morris 5-9-6 N Day 95
5 (1) 6431 KHAYALI 15 (D,F) D Morley 3-9-4 R Hills 91
6 (9) 4314 MILITARY 15 (BF,D,S) H Cecil 3-9-0 W Ryan 95
7 (3) -425 CYBERTECHNOLOGY 36 (B,G) B Hills 3-8-11 G Carter [illegible]
8 (8) 4613 WATHBAT NASHWAN 14 (BF,G) L Cumani 3-8-9 D Holland 97
9 (5) /2-0 HERR TRIGGER 9 (B,CD,F) Dr J Scargill 6-8-8 J Tate 88

4-1 Military, 9-2 Vola Via, Wathbat Nashwan, 11-2 Bardon Hill Boy, 13-2 Khayali, 7-1 Mohawk River, 10-1 Bay Of Islands, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 27 winners from 100 runners, 27.0%; D Morley, 6 from 31, 19.4%; R Armstrong, 10 from 57, 17.5%; D Loder, 11 from 66, 16.7%; L Cumani, 19 from 124, 15.3%; J Gosden, 20 from 134, 14.9%.

JOCKEYS: C Hodgson, 4 winners from 23 rides, 17.4%; R Hills, 17 from 118, 14.4%; D Holland, 7 from 49, 14.3%; D McCabe, 7 from 50, 14.0%; J Quinn, 9 from 65, 13.8%; S Sanders, 3 from 29, 10.3%.

THIRSK

THUNDERER

2.10 Perfect Peach. 2.40 Roseate Lodge. 3.10 Night Express. 3.40 Opaque. 4.15 Our People. 4.45 Kafaf.

GOING: GOOD SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 TONY WHITING MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,029. 5f) (13 runners)

1 35 EURO VENTURE 77 D Nicholls 9-0 Alex Greaves 3
2 FAR REMOVED Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 D Harrison 2
3 4230 HAPPY DAYS 19 D Moffatt 9-0 Darren Moffatt (3) 1
4 000 HEY UP MATE 29 J Berry 9-0 O Pears 5
5 LAMBS LANE T Easterby 9-0 C Rutter 8
6 RAY OF SUNSHINE Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 J Fortune 11
7 605 SMART PRINCE 17 J J Quinn 9-0 G Parkin (3) 9
8 THE FUELOLOGIST Miss J Craze 9-0 S Webster 13
9 THISTLE PARK T Barron 9-0 J Carroll 6
10 FIZZED M Johnston 8-9 J Weaver 7
11 PENNY WHISTLE T Easterby 8-9 N Kennedy 10
12 62 PERFECT PEACH 17 J Berry 8-9 T E Durcan (3) 12
13 STATELY FAVOUR M Camacho 8-9 L Charnock 4

3-1 Perfect Peach, 11-2 Fizzed, 6-1 Euro Venture, Penny Whistle, 7-1 Happy Days, 15-2 Ray Of Sunshine, 10-1 Lambs Lane, 12-1 Thistle Park, 14-1 others.

2.40 ROCOM SELLING HANDICAP
(Lady amateurs: £3,662: 6f) (24)

1 0-60 CHALICE 17 (G) Mrs A Swinbank 4-11-7 L Preston (7) 17
2 6300 DOMINELLE 8 (D,F) T Easterby 5-11-6 A Deniel (4) 9
3 5060 PETRACO 40 (D,F,G,S) N Smith 9-11-5 A Shirley-Priest (7) 10
4 2436 DANCING SIOUX 50 R Guest 5-11-2 Z Berkett (7) 19
5 0026 STEPHENSONS ROCKET 22 (C,F,G,S) R Fahey 6-11-1 S Higgins (4) 4
6 0666 REINHARDT 17 (F) D Nicholls 4-11-0 J Allison 24
7 5460 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 12 (D,F,G,S) R McKellar 5-10-13 C Williams (4) 20
8 0000 MORNING STAR 17 (F) W McKeown 3-10-12 P Robson 3
9 4003 HENRY THE HAWK 17 (B,D,F,S) M Dods 6-10-10 E Ramsden (4) 5
10 5-00 PATRITA PARK 83 W Haigh 3-10-10 E J Jones (4) 18
11 0600 KALAR 10 (C,D,F,G) D Chapman 8-10-10 R Clark 6
12 0000 L A TOUCH 12 (D,F) J J Quinn 4-10-9 A Elsey 1
13 1331 ROSEATE LODGE 8 (C,D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 11-10-9 J Harrison (7) 23
14 0510 PALDOST 12 (D,F) M Hammond 3-10-8 A Hammond (7) 8
15 0040 EVERSET 10 (D,F,G) A Bailey 9-10-8 A L Hutchinson (7) 16
16 0063 OHNONOTAGAIN 10 Mrs N Macauley 5-10-7 D Jones 14
17 2060 CHEF'S LADY 16 J Bradley 5-10-4 V Roberts (4) 15
18 0000 MAYSIMP 116 B Baugh 4-10-4 S M Potts (7) 13
19 4513 SECONDS AWAY 12 (B,F) J Goldie 6-10-3 D Carter (7) 11
20 5005 MU-ARRIK 10 (V,D,G) G Oldroyd 9-9-12 A Armitage (7) 21
21 2046 OKAY BABY 9 (B,F) J Bradley 5-9-9 H Webster (4) 12
22 /00- VALES ALES 294J R McKellar 4-9-8 K Warrant (7) 7
23 -500 BURNING COST 21 R Peacock 7-9-8 C Peacock (4) 2
24 00-0 FIRST OPTION 14 (D,F,G,S) R Bastiman 7-9-6 R Bastiman (7) 22

6-1 Roseate Lodge, 7-1 Reinhardt, 8-1 Henry The Hawk, Dancing Sioux, 10-1 Stephensons Rocket, Chalice, 12-1 Petraco, Another Nightmare, 14-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Goodwood: 2.45 Red Maple, 3.50 Sylva Paradise, Loch Patrick, Waypoint. Hamilton Park: 5.55 Philgem, 6.55 Cois Na Farraige. Lingfield Park: 6.05 Tulsa, 6.35 Muja's Magic. Newton Abbot: 2.25 Running De Cerisy, 3.25 Cardan. Newmarket: 4.10 Fiveo'clock Shadow, Mamora Bay, 4.40 Cybertechnology. Thirsk: 2.40 Okay Baby, 3.10 In Good Nick, Madam Zando, Prominent, Superapparos, Two On The Bridge

3.10 COOPERS & LYBRAND MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£3,875: 6f) (15)

1 030 RIVER TWEED 28 J Gosden 3-10-0 J Carroll 2
2 2354 TWO ON THE BRIDGE 5 (B) D Smith 3-9-4 L Charnock 7
3 0-36 MERRILY 101 Miss S Hall 4-9-1 D Harrison 10
4 6400 IN GOOD NICK 14 (V) M W Easterby 3-9-0 G Parkin (3) 5
5 4500 NIGHT EXPRESS 8 B Hanbury 3-8-13 J Fortune 13
6 0400 PROMINENT 8 (V) Mrs V Aconley 3-8-8 M Deering 12
7 6000 GEORDIE LAD 14 J Bennett 3-8-4 C Rutter 8
8 0050 MAYDORO 14 M Dods 4-8-3 T Williams 11
9 -000 SKELTON COUNTESS 18 R Hollinshead 4-8-3 F Lynch 15
10 0-00 BRIGHT GOLD 10 (B) A Smith 3-8-2 R Lappin 9
11 0345 RIVER ENSIGN 22 W M Brisbourne 4-7-11 A McCarthy (7) 14
12 0000 BENT RAIWAND 23 Ennco Incisa 4-7-10 Kim Tinkler 1
13 6000 SUPERAPPAROS 28 (B) S Bowring 3-7-10 F Boyle (7) 3
14 0000 SEANCHAI 28 P Felgate 4-7-10 Iona Wands (5) 4
15 0004 MADAM ZANDO 14 (V) J Balding 4-7-10 N Carlisle 6

7-2 Two On The Bridge, 6-1 River Tweed, 7-1 In Good Nick, 8-1 Night Express, Maydoro, River Ensign, 12-1 Prominent, 14-1 others.

3.40 BARCLAYS HANDICAP (£4,988: 1m 4f) (10)

1 5262 CANTON VENTURE 8 (CD,F) S Woods 5-10-0 J Fortune 8
2 -230 STAR RAGE 112 (D,F,G) M Johnston 7-9-13 J Weaver 2
3 0000 CENSOR 14 (F) D Nicholls 4-9-13 Alex Greaves 7
4 1100 ALBAHA 15 (D) J Banks 4-9-11 D Sweeney (3) 5
5 2063 LAY THE BLAME 7 (F,S) M Hammond 4-9-8 J Carroll 6
6 2250 OPAQUE 35 (G) W Storey 5-9-7 J Fanning 4
7 -210 RHENBOLD 60 (D,S) T Etherington 3-9-2 C Rutter 1
8 0014 LINDRICK LADY 12 (D,S) B Rothwell 3-8-9 G Parkin (3) 9
9 4535 IBIN ST JAMES 14 (B,F) J Bethell 3-8-8 D Harrison 10
10 3/1- KILERNAN 485 (D,F,G) T Barron 6-7-11 L Charnock 3

5-2 Canton Venture, 5-1 Star Rage, 6-1 Opaque, Ibin St James, 7-1 Lay The Blame, Lindrick Lady, 10-1 Albaha, 12-1 others.

4.15 LORDS TAVERNERS HANDICAP
(£7,477: 1m) 11)

1 -403 ALMOND ROCK 76 (D,G,S) J Fanshawe 5-10-0 D Harrison 3
2 0660 MOVING ARROW 22 (D,F,G,S) Miss S Hall 6-9-5 F Lynch 7
3 0300 CAVIAR ROYALE 23 (F) T Barron 3-9-5 J Carroll 4
4 0503 VAN GURP 59 (D,G) B McMahon 4-9-4 L Newton 8
5 3001 IAMUS 7 (D,F,G) T Barron 4-9-1 Victoria Appleby (7) 9
6 1-03 ATTITUDE 23 (F) H Candy 3-8-12 C Rutter 10
7 -406 OUR PEOPLE 60 (D,F) M Johnston 3-8-8 J Weaver 5
8 1010 STACKATTACK 14 (BF,F) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-6 J Fortune 11
9 4226 BOLLIN FRANK 29 (BF,D,F,S) T Easterby 5-8-5 L Charnock 6
10 5054 ROYAL CEILIDH 7 (CD,F,G) D Smith 4-8-1 J Fanning 2
11 2460 MOUNTGATE 43 (CD,F,G) M Bielby 5-7-13 T Williams 1

9-2 Attitude, 11-2 Iamus, 13-2 Bollin Frank, 13-2 Stackattack, 10-1 others.

4.45 HALCYON GROUP MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,795: 7f) (4)

1 40- AMID THE STARS 379 M Johnston 8-11 J Weaver 4
2 42-2 KAFAF 17 J Gosden 8-11 J Carroll 2
3 -323 POLISH ROMANCE 15 M Stoute 8-11 F Lynch 1
4 TOSS AND TUMBLE W Haigh 8-11 R Lappin 3

10-11 Kafaf, 5-4 Polish Romance, 8-1 Amid The Stars, 50-1 Toss And Tumble

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Stoute, 12 winners from 35 runners, 34.3%; J Bradley, 7 from 22, 31.8%; B Hanbury, 5 from 20, 25.0%; M Camacho, 6 from 25, 24.0%; J Fanshawe, 5 from 21, 23.8%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 27 winners from 107 rides, 25.2%; D Harrison, 5 from 22, 22.7%; F Lynch, 4 from 19, 21.1%; J Fortune, 18 from 133, 13.5%; O Pears, 5 from 42, 11.9%. Only qualifiers.

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18/1	Hello Mister	40/1	Sharp Hat
20/1	Clan Chief	40/1	Squire Corrie
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RACING: IRISH FILLY'S SUCCESS PUTS DEFEAT OF KING OF KINGS IN CONTEXT

Lady Alexander proves her worth

By Chris McGrath

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Lady Alexander, noseband, outpaces Mugello to capture the Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

TALKING horses have a nasty habit of becoming tongue-tied the moment you ask them a difficult question. King Of Kings, the precocious Irish colt, had such an inflated reputation earlier in the summer that he was all but awarded a doctorate by Trinity College, Dublin.

He promptly fluffed his lines against *Lady Alexander* at the Curragh last month — but at Goodwood yesterday the same filly proved that he had, on that occasion, been tackling a paper closer to nuclear physics than the ten-times table.

Lady Alexander again showed unflinching courage in the Jockey Club of Kenya Molecomb Stakes; but, dropped over a furlong in trip, she also showed a streak of brilliance over this downhill five. Able to hold a place in the van throughout, she then got back up when headed, denying Mugello by half a length. How inappropriate that this most genuine of equine articles should be trained by someone called *Con*.

Con Collins, who won this race two years ago with Almaty, has seen enough imposters in 45 years' training not to fall for the tripe talked about some horses. *But he has* nonetheless been amazed by the improvement made by the Night Shift filly, who is owned by a Dublin hotelier, Noel O'Callaghan.

"She is as plucky as her owner, who had a few quid on today," Collins said. "He implored me from the first time she ran to let him have a gamble, but to begin with I couldn't tell him to have one pound on her. She has just kept improving, however, and hasn't yet told me how good she is." She may do so, stepped back up in trip, in the Moyglare Stud Stakes.

Barely half an hour had elapsed before the same gossips who pumped up King Of Kings were heralding the arrival of another young champion in the making. Chester House duly landed the odds on his debut in the EBF Foxhall Maiden Stakes, but showed none of the flamboyance of his stablemate. Daggers Drawn, winner of the Richmond Stakes the previous day.

While the Newmarket moles were dispirited by his half-length success — having never travelled with any flair — the Mr Prospector colt will have won over less excitable observers. He had a terrible draw and, a real galloping type, was also ill at ease on the turns and undulations. Green too, he gradually worked out what Kieren Fallon was getting at, and came through to lead inside the last, before idling in front.

"I think he has the potential to be very nice one day, but he has been too hyped," Henry Cecil, his trainer, said. "He has been very lazy at home, and we have been letting him win his gallops to try to teach him something. People shouldn't try to make him a world-beater. Now that he has had a race, however, he'll be a different horse." Coral, who make Daggers Drawn 7-1 favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas, left Chester House on 25-1.

□ King Of Kings, ridden by Christy Roche, had a workout at Ballydoyle yesterday, and is a possible runner in the group one Heinz Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown on Sunday week.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: WAYPOINT
(3.50 Goodwood)
Next best: Dancing Image
(5.35 Goodwood).

The Times Private Handicapper (Gerald Hubbard) top-rated Lady Alexander (100-30) and also found Bahamian Sunshine (20-1) at Goodwood yesterday.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Goodwood

Going: good to firm

2.15 SEEBOARD HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £20,535: 7f)
JORROCKS b g Rubiano - Parla Fina (P Mellon) 7-11 C Lowther (9-1) 1.
Great Child b c Danehill - Charmina (S Suhail) 8-6 L Dettori (6-1) 2.
Omaha City b g Night Shift - Be Discreet (S Gubby Ltd) 9-7 A Clark (16-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Jawhari, 9 Silver Kristal (5th), 10 Shaheen, Wasp Ranger (4th), 11 Just Nick, 12 Always Alight, 14 Granny's Pet, 20 Gee Bee Dream, Jeffrey Anotherred, 25 Fun Galore, 33 Ivory Dawn, Just Loui (6th). 15 ran. ¾l, 2l, ¾l, sh hd, 2l. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £12.00; £3.20, £1.90, £6.40. DF: £34.50. Trio: £571.10. CSF: £55.36. Tricast: £797.34.

2.45 VOLVO CONTRACTS GLOBE-TROTTER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £34,800: 1m 2f)
FUTURE PERFECT b g Efisio - True Ring (ROM Racing) 8-9 C Rutter (25-1) 1.
Supply And Demand b g Belmez - Sipsi Fach (Action) 9-4 J Reid (12-1) 2.
Atlantic Desire b f Ela-Mana-Mou - Bold Miss (Atlantic Racing Ltd) 8-11 J Weaver (20-1) 3.
Calypso Grant b f Danehill - Why So Silent (Mrs P Hartis) 8-9 C Lowther (33-1) 4.
ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Amyas, 13-2 Labeq, Sword Arm, 8 Patriot Games, Southerly Wind, 10 Al Azhar, 14 Lord Eurolink, 16 Desert Horizon (6th), Sir Talbot, 20 Priena, 25 Bali Paradise (5th), Barba Papa, Generous Gift, Papua. 18 ran. 1½l, 1½l, nk, ½l, ½l. P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote: £50.00; £7.90, £2.50, £5.10, £8.00. DF: £370.50. Trio: £2,842.50 (part won. Pool of £1,563.19 carried forward to 3.50 at Goodwood today). CSF: £282.20. Tricast: £5,548.93.

3.20 SCHRODERS GLORIOUS RATED HANDICAP (Listed race: £30,405: 1m 4f)
BAHAMIAN SUNSHINE ch h Sunshine Forever - Pride Of Darby (Lucayan Stud) 6-8-7 J Weaver (20-1) 1.
Bright Water b c Caerleon - Shining Water (K Abdulla) 4-9-6 K Fallon (6-5 fav) 2.
Humourless ch c Nashwan - Sans Blague (Sheikh Mohammed) 4-8-7 L Dettori (9-2) 3.
ALSO RAN: 9-2 Beauchamp Jade (5th), 7 Medaille Militaire, 10 Better Offer (4th), 16 Bahamian Knight (6th). 7 ran. 3½l, 1l, 7l, 1½l, 8l. R Akehurst at Epsom. Tote: £18.70; £5.30, £1.50. DF: £19.80. CSF: £40.65.

3.50 JOCKEY CLUB OF KENYA MOLECOMB STAKES (Group III: 2-Y-O: £24,025: 5f)
LADY ALEXANDER ch f Night Shift - Sandhurst Goddess (Mrs N O'Callaghan) 8-12 P Shanahan (100-30 fav; Private Handicapper's top rating) 1.
Mugello b f Emarati - Fleur De Foret (Mrs A Jarvis) 8-7 M Hills (11-2) 2.
Chieftain b c Indian Ridge - Legit (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) 8-12 Pat Eddery (8-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 13-2 Pure Coincidence (6th), 9 Princess Natalie, 10 Ouasne, 12 Barringham Blade (4th), Distinct Vintage, Its All Relative, 14 Mysticism, 16 Tippitt Boy (5th), 33 Compradore, Gipsy Moth. 13 ran. ½l, 1½l, hd, sh hd, ¾l. C Collins in Ireland. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £2.50, £3.30. DF: £12.60. Trio: £57.00. CSF: £19.25.

4.25 EBF FOXHALL MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £7,197: 7f)
CHESTER HOUSE b c Mr Prospector - Toussaud (K Abdulla) 8-11 K Fallon (10-11 fav; Newmarket Correspondent's nap) 1.
Just In Time b c Night Shift - Optaria (Mrs P Merrick) 8-11 J Reid (25-1) 2.
Secret Archive b c Salse - Lycia (M Suhail) 8-11 R Hughes (20-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 3 Night Shot (5th), 7 Generosity (6th), 9 Hadid (4th), 10 Bermuda Boy, 25 Wildcat, 50 Ocean Line, Top Marte. 10 ran. ½l, ½l, sh hd, 1¼l, 3l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £3.10, £3.60. DF: £21.30. Trio: £95.70. CSF: £35.32.

5.00 CHICHESTER CITY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £7,310: 5f)
TEAR WHITE b g Mac's Imp - Exemplary (A Lawson & Co Ltd) 8-1 J Quinn (15-2) 1.
Brutal Fantasy b g Distinctly North - Flash Donna (Diamond Racing Ltd) 8-10 R Winston (12-1) 2.
Dancethenightaway gr f Efisio - Dancing Diana (G Bosley) 9-0 G Hannon (7-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Rudi's Pet (5th), 5 Sabina, 13-2 Cauda Equina (6th), 9 Gaelic Storm, 12 Swino, 14 Anokato (4th), Antonia's Choice. 10 ran. Nk, ½l, 1½l, ½l, sh hd. T Mills at Epsom. Tote: £10.70; £2.80, £3.40, £2.00. DF: £69.20. Trio: £107.30. CSF: £82.27. Tricast: £608.28.

5.35 KINRARA APPRENTICE LIMITED STAKES (£6,710: 6f)
SO INTREPID ch h Never So Bold - Double River (E Hayward) 7-9-4 R Ffrench (13-8 fav) 1.
Almasi b m Petorius - Best Niece (The Equema Ptnrs) 5-8-12 Jo Hunnam (7-4) 2.
Palacegate Touch gr g Petong - Dancing Chimes (Laurel Ltd) 7-9-4 C Lowther (7-2) 3.
ALSO RAN: 10 Scissor Ridge (5th), 20 Mon Canard (6th), 33 Superlao (4th). 6 ran. 2½l, 2l, 1½l, 4l, 1½l. J Bradley at Chepstow. Tote: £2.80; £1.70, £1.60. DF: £2.40. CSF: £4.46.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £58,428.45 carried forward to Goodwood today).
Placepot: £961.00. Quadpot: £18.10.

Thirsk

Going: good

2.25 (6f) 1, GRAND CHAPEAU (S Sanders, 5-2 fav); 2, Camionneur (L Charnock, 16-1); 3, Benzoe (D Harrison, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 8 Smokey From Caplaw (6th), 10 Amron, Young Ben, 12 Johayro (4th), 14 The Happy Fox, 16 Meranti, Rich Glow (5th), Thwaab, 20 Bowlers Boy, Souperficial, 25 Spotted Eagle. 14 ran. NR: U-No-Harry. 3l, 1½l, 1½l, hd, 2l. D Nicholls at Thirsk. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £4.20, £1.60. DF: £25.00. Trio: £29.90. CSF: £45.80. Tricast: £121.92.

2.55 (5f) 1, BABY GRAND (Kimberley Hart, 5-1); 2, Shalyah (R Mullen, 7-1); 3, Beechwood Quest (L Charnock, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Yorkies Boy, 11-2 Oriel Girl (5th), 14 Bow Peep (4th), Cumbrian Cadet (6th), 33 Seventh Heaven. 8 ran. 1½l, 3½l, 1¼l, 1½l, 3l. T Barron at Thirsk. Tote: £6.00; £1.80, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £35.90. CSF: £35.96. Tricast: £112.06.

3.30 (1m 4f) 1, TOP (S Sanders, 16-1); 2, Shilling (D Harrison, 3-1); 3, Atnab (J Carroll, 15-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Perlethorpe (4th), 11-2 Kingdom Pearl (5th), 13-2 Doyenne, 25 Charmans Daughter (6th), Mirror Four Sport. 8 ran. 2l, hd, 3l, ½l, 8l. J Fanshawe at Newmarket. Tote: £17.90; £2.40, £1.60, £1.50. DF: £19.50. CSF: £61.09. Tricast: £124.06.

4.00 (1m) 1, BLOT (J Carroll, 5-2 fav); 2, Bamburgh Boy (D Harrison, 5-1); 3, Present Chance (L Newton, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Fatal Baraari, 13-2 Beguine, 10 Talib (4th), 16 Lyphicio, 20 Royale Rose (5th), 33 Beach Buoy, Flower Miller, 50 Es Go (6th), 250 The Vale, 500 Jive Boogie. 13 ran. 3½l, ½l, 12l, 5l, 3½l. Mrs J Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £2.30; £1.50, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £8.70. Trio: £18.40. CSF: £13.96.

4.30 (7f) 1, SUGGEST (S Sanders, 20-1); 2, Operatic (R Mullen, 4-1); 3, Petara (R Lappin, 11-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 I'm Tef, 5 Ribble Assembly, Three Tenners (4th), 14 Silver Hope (6th), 33 Are Yer There, Disco Tex (5th), Dram Doctor, Eddie Rombo, Musical Pet. 12 ran. 2½l, 3l, 2½l, hd, hd. W Storey at Consett. Tote: £22.00; £4.10, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £64.50. Trio: £184.10 (part won. Pool of £57.06 carried forward to 3.50 at Goodwood today). CSF: £89.04.

5.05 (7f) 1, FANCY A FORTUNE (A Nicholls, 11-8 fav); 2, Italian Symphony (A McCarthy, 9-1); 3, Carreamia (S Buckley, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Presentiment, 10 Severn Mill, 14 Fenygarn Guvnor, 16 Petula Boy (6th), Stolen Music (4th), 20 Intrepid Fort (5th), 33 Legal Brief. 10 ran. 1l, 5l, 5l, nk, 1½l. D Nicholls at Thirsk. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £2.40, £1.50. DF: £6.80. Trio: £10.80. CSF: £15.03. Tricast: £49.65.

Placepot: £24.90. Quadpot: £4.10.

Bangor

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.35 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Regal Rambler (L Cummins, 16-1); 2, Follow De Call (16-1); 3, Colway Prince (10-1). Green's Seago 7-2 fav. 12 ran. Hd, 5l. L Barratt. Tote: £21.50; £4.50, £4.10, £2.60. DF: £102.70. CSF: £228.33. Tricast: £2,457.13.

3.10 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Bayerd (Michael Brennan, 4-1). Finished alone. Demoniac 4-5 fav (f). 4 ran. J O'Shea. Tote: £4.10. DF: £1.20. CSF: £4.55.

3.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Hacketts Cross (R Johnson, 7-2); 2, Sherifl (13-8 fav); 3, Chief Mouse (15-8). 4 ran. Hd, 6l. P Eccles. Tote: £3.30. DF: £3.50. CSF: £9.06.

4.15 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, King Of Shadows (Gary Lyons, 4-1); 2, Well Armed (11-4); 3, Catwalker (25-1). Glamanglitz 11-10 fav. 5 ran. 1½l, ¾l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £4.90; £1.50, £1.30. DF: £4.40. CSF: £14.05.

4.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Young Dalesman (T Eley, 25-1); 2, Totally Yours (30-100 fav); 3, Raw Deal (40-1). 9 ran. 1½l, 18l. A Streeter. Tote: £51.90; £4.90, £1.30, £3.70. DF: £12.50. Trio: £56.60. CSF: £33.36.

5.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Dawn Summit (R Johnson, 6-4 fav); 2, Propellant (7-2); 3, Real Fire (6-1). 7 ran. 5l, 3½l. P Bradley. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £2.30. DF: £4.70. CSF: £6.10.

Placepot: £544.80. Quadpot: £14.70.

LINGFIELD PARK SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Johnston, 54 winners from 295 runners, 18.3%. H Candy, 5 from 30, 16.7%; G Lewis, 25 from 153, 16.3%; J Eyre, 12 from 74, 16.2%; C Brittain, 32 from 206, 15.5%; N Graham, 9 from 59, 15.3%; R O'Sullivan, 46 from 331, 13.9%.

JOCKEYS: G Milligan, 6 winners from 23 rides, 26.1%; K Fallon, 7 from 35, 20.0%; B Doyle, 33 from 220, 15.0%; M Wigham, 18 from 128, 14.0%; M Roberts, 16 from 119, 13.4%; Paul Eddery, 20 from 173, 11.6%.

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CHANGING TIMES

HAMILTON PARK

THUNDERER
5.55 Mentalasanythin. 6.25 One Singer. 6.55 Sun Mark. 7.25 Kind Of Light. 7.55 Night Chorus. 8.25 Mamma's Boy.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

5.55 KITCHEN COMPANY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£3,411: 1m 3f) (8 runners)

1 -213 MENTALASANYTHIN 77 (C,D,F,G,S) D Haydn Jones 8-10-0 G Faulkner 8
2 1523 LORD ADVOCATE 15 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Nolan 9-9-1 K Sked (3) 6
3 4541 PHILISTAR 29 (B,CD,S) Miss L Perratt 5-8-3 S Buckley (7) 1
4 -523 THISONESFORALICE 19 (F,S) J Goldie 9-7-12 J McAuley (7) 5
5 2050 [illegible] 19 P Monteith 4-7-10 A Daly 7
6 6334 PHILGEM 26 (V,CD,S) C Fairhurst 4-7-12 Jenny Benson (7) 4
7 5050 SWEET NOTE 38 Miss L Perratt 3-7-10 A Nicholls (7) 3
8 2002 RAPID MOVER 22 (B,CD,S) D Nolan 10-7-10 N Pollard (7) 2

9-4 Mentalasanythin, 11-4 [illegible], 7-2 Philgem, 6-1 Lord Advocate, 8-1 others.

6.25 MOTHERWELL NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,542: 5f 4yd) (5)

1 3044 SANDSIDE 14 (D,F,S) J Berry 9-4 T E Durcan (3) 4
2 1253 ONE SINGER 17 (BF,D,G) M Johnston 9-2 K Sked (5) 1
3 41 LETS BE FAIR 18 (D,F) J Hanson 9-12 E Johnson 2
4 FRENCH PRIDE P Dickens 8-7 A Daly (5) 3
5 0 IMPULSIVE DECISION 12 M Meade 8-3 R Havlin (3) 5

6-4 Lets Be Fair, 2-1 One Singer, 5-2 Sandside, 16-1 Impulsive Decision, 25-1 French Pride.

6.55 UDDINGSTON SELLING STAKES (£2,276: 1m 4f 17yd) (8) SKY

1 -211 MONACO GOLD 32 (CD,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-12 S Copp (5) 3
2 C441 SUN MARK 26 (CD,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 6-9-12 E Johnson 7
3 0050 BREYDON 15 P Monteith 4-9-7 O Pears 1
4 5450 COIS NA FARRAIGE 15 (B,D,F) Miss L Perratt 4-9-7 N Kennedy 2
5 0044 CRAIGARY 25 Mrs A Swinbank 6-9-7 A Daly (5) 8
6 5-60 SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 14 D Nolan 7-9-7 K Sked (5) 5
7 -000 TALENTED TING 14 (C,F,G) P Haslam 8-9-7 G Faulkner (5) 6
8 3004 CHANSON D AMOUR 14 Miss L Perratt 3-8-5 J McAuley (7) 4

13-8 Monaco Gold, 11-4 Sun Mark, 5-1 Cois Na Farraige, 13-2 Craigary, 8-1 Chanson D Amour, 10-1 Talented Ting, 20-1 Breydon, 33-1 School Of Science.

7.25 GLENGOYNE SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT FILLIES HANDICAP (£5,652: 6f 5yd) (9) SKY

1 3022 KIND OF LIGHT 8 (D,F,S) R Guest 4-9-10 J Weaver 1
2 2202 NATURAL KEY 12 (CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 4-9-7 A Mackay 6
3 3000 DON'T CARE 19 (B,D,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 6-9-4 J Carroll 5
4 3202 LEADING PRINCESS 12 (B,CD,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 6-8-3 N Kennedy 9
5 2500 NORTHERN SAL 14 (C,S) Miss L Perratt 3-8-2 D Wright 8
6 2000 SUEDORO 22 (CD,F) J Goldie 7-8-1 J McAuley (7) 2
7 0225 BALLARD LADY 8 (D,S) J Wainwright 5-7-10 T Williams 7
8 2560 SUNDAY MAIL TOO 22 (CD,G,S) Miss L Perratt 5-7-10 A Nicholls (7) 4
9 0150 RAGTIME COWGIRL 22 (C,F,G,S) D Nolan 4-7-10 N Pollard (7) 3

15-8 Kind Of Light, 9-2 Natural Key, 6-1 Ballard Lady, 7-1 Suedoro, 8-1 others.

7.55 ROTHMANS ROYALS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,277: 1m 1f) (7) SKY

1 5114 ULTRA BOY 18 (F,S) P Haslam 9-7 G Faulkner (5) 1
2 5221 NIGHT MIRAGE 14 (D,F) M Johnston 9-2 J Weaver 2
3 3044 NIGHT CHORUS 14 (S) B Rothwell 8-13 J Fortune 4
4 1003 ZORBA 7 (CD,G) J Hetherton 8-11 N Kennedy 6
5 0-22 MARYTAVY 12 M Prescott 8-7 J Carroll 5
6 2500 BIFF-EM 19 (C,G) Miss L Perratt 8-1 D Wright 3
7 0535 BEAU ROBERTO 12 J Goldie 7-10 T Williams 7

11-4 Night Mirage, 3-1 Marytavy, 4-1 Ultra Boy, 6-1 Zorba, 13-2 Night Chorus, Beau Roberto, 14-1 Biff-Em.

8.25 BAILEYS IRISH CREAM NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,241: 6f 5yd) (8) SKY

1 2122 JACMAR 19 (CD,F) Miss L Perratt 9-7 N Kennedy 8
2 1643 DAYS OF GRACE 15 (F) M Meade 9-2 R Havlin (3) 6
3 2334 MAMMA S BOY 86 (BF) J Berry 9-1 T E Durcan (3) 3
4 465 SAINT ANN 14 M Johnston 8-11 J Weaver 1
5 052 MYSTERY GUEST 18 M Prescott 8-10 J Carroll 7
6 130 MIGHTY SURE 25 (S) M W Easterby 8-3 Dale Gibson 5
7 0302 SWANMORE LADY 24 S C Williams 7-11 D Wright 2
8 6826 COSMIC CASE 7 J Goldie 7-10 T Williams 4

7-2 Jacmar, 4-1 Mystery Guest, 5-1 Mamma s Boy, Swanmore Lady, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Williams, 10 winners from 20 runners, 50.0%; M Prescott, 11 from 36, 30.6%; M W Easterby, 5 from 18, 27.8%; D Haydn Jones, 11 from 48, 22.9%; M Meade, 3 from 14, 21.4%; P Haslam, 22 from 115, 19.1%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 42 winners from 161 rides, 26.1%; S Copp, 4 from 18, 22.2%; J Fortune, 26 from 134, 19.4%; R Havlin, 6 from 35, 17.1%; D Wright, 8 from 48, 16.7%; A Mackay, 20 from 121, 16.5%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
6.05 Delight Of Dawn. 6.35 Charlies Lad. 7.05 Krosno. 7.35 City Gambler. 8.05 Totem Dancer. 8.35 Classic Ballet.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (TURF) SIS
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.05 ALEXIR PACKAGING APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,148: 7f 140yd) (18 runners)

1 2249 NEVER THINK TWICE 15 (V,F) K Ivory 4-10-0 C Cassidy (10) 1
2 3200 SEA DANZIG 3 (C,F) J Bridger 4-9-12 P Doe 18
3 1433 SPENCER'S REVENGE 131 (D,F) P Butler 5-9-9 G Hannon (5) 10
4 4301 GOLD LANCE 22 (D,F) R J O'Sullivan 4-9-7 P Fredericks 7
5 0000 MASTER MILLFIELD 75 (F) C Hill 5-9-6 D McGaffin 13
6 5600 DANCING LAWYER 49 (BF,D,F,G) K Burke 6-9-4 P Wright (10) 8
7 0260 DELIGHT OF DAWN 8 (D,F,G) E Wheeler 5-9-1 S Carson (6) 3
8 -505 MARY CULI 15 H Candy 5-9-0 B Smith (10) 14
9 0350 MAD ALEX 10 M Haynes 4-8-12 M Connolly (10) 11
10 7000 TULSA 16 (B) B Gubby 3-8-11 R Smith (5) 4
11 4611 CLYTHA HILL LAD 8 (D,F) J Eustace 6-8-11 T Siddall 12
12 0044 MULTI FRANCHISE 18 (D,F) B Flower 4-8-11 J Fowle (3) 17
13 6020 LITTLE PILGRIM 10 T Jones 4-8-9 P Mundy (7) 2
14 0201 NAPOLEON'S RETURN 10 (V,D,F,G) J Eyre 4-8-9 G Wright (8) 9
15 0-46 MOVING UP 5 T Powell 4-8-5 R Cody-Boutcher (5) 16
16 0-05 PRESS AGAIN 14 P Hayward 5-8-5 D Hayden (5) 5
17 0142 LORINS GOLD 16 (D,F) A Turnell 7-8-4 D Williams (5) 6
18 -000 FAIRLY SURE 14 (CD,F) N Smith 4-8-2 R Brisland (5) 15

9-2 Clytha Hill Lad, 6-1 Napoleon's Return, 7-1 Delight Of Dawn, Gold Lance, 8-1 Lorins Gold, Multi Franchise, 10-1 Spencer's Revenge, 12-1 others.

6.35 ABACUS RESEARCH SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,337: 6f) (11) SKY

1 1260 ARM AND A LEG 8 (F) C Dwyer 9-3 D O'Donohoe (3) 8
2 2401 CHARLIES LAD 5 (D,F) P Burgoyne 9-3 P Bloomfield 9
3 2565 BERMUDA TRIANGLE 11 M Haynes 8-6 R Ffrench (3) 4
4 000 CHILTERN EMERALD 14 P Eccles 8-6 J Quinn 2
5 0655 DOVE CROSSROADS 47 S Dow 8-6 D Salt (7) 10
6 0 MISS LADY LYDIA 7 J Pearce 8-6 A Morris 11
7 0506 MUJA'S MAGIC 11 (B) K Ivory 8-6 N Adams 7
8 6 REMEMBER FRIMLEY 36 C Hill 8-6 D McGaffin (7) 3
9 04 SATIS 32 M Channon 8-6 Paul Eddery 5
10 0600 SCENE 16 M Meade 8-6 R Brisland (7) 1
11 6 WAYTOGOMO 7 Miss B Sanders 8-6 A Whelan (3) 6

9-4 Charlies Lad, 5-1 Arm And A Leg, 7-1 Bermuda Triangle, Satis, 8-1 Dove Crossroads, 10-1 Muja's Magic, Waytogomo, 14-1 others.

7.05 BAA LONDON GATWICK HANDICAP (£3,044: 1m 3f 106yd) (9) SKY

1 2461 KROSNO 22 (CD,F) S C Williams 3-9-10 K Fallon 4
2 605 *KARACHI 851J (D,F,G) R O'Sullivan 7-9-5* A Procter 8
3 0421 SODA POP 9 (F) G L Moore 5-9-5 Candy Morris 2
4 0306 ALMUHTARAM 23 (B,D,F) G Lewis 5-9-2 Paul Eddery 9
5 4022 SAPPHIRE SON 9 (BF,C,G) P Clarke 5-8-10 R Ffrench (3) 3
6 0-06 PRINTERS QUILL 54 (F) D Chapman 5-8-4 Sophie Mitchell 5
7 0-26 SUPERMICK 8 (BF,F,G) W Muir 6-8-2 M Roberts 7
8 0235 COLOUR COUNSELLOR 5 (B,F) R Flower 4-7-13 J Quinn 1
9 5300 KIROV PROTEGE 9 (D,F) Mrs L Jewell 5-7-12 D Williams (7) 6

7-4 Krosno, 5-1 Supermick, 7-1 Soda Pop, Sapphire Son, Colour Counsellor, 8-1 Almuhtaram, Printers Quill, 20-1 others.

7.35 WESTMEAD WINNERS MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,670: 7f 140yd) (10) SKY

1 550 GLITTERING 11 C Brittain 9-0 M Roberts 10
2 00 KALMOOJID 10 C Hill 9-0 A Polli (5) 7
3 3340 CITY GAMBLER 49 G Bravery 8-9 M Rimmer 9
4 0-0 FORWARD MISS 24 C Benstead 8-9 J Lowe 8
5 6 GALAXY FLIGHT 9 M Meade 8-9 F Norton 1
6 00- MISS KALAGLOW 297 C Wall 8-9 M Tebbutt 6
7 0 MOONTALK 31 M Haynes 8-9 M Connolly (7) 4
8 -000 OVER THE MOON 12 M Fetherston-Godley 8-9 J Quinn 5
9 6-60 SHE'S ELECTRIC 9 J Bridger 8-9 P Doe (7) 2
10 0-30 SUPER SCRAVELS 3 (BF) K Mahdi 8-9 Paul Eddery 3

5-4 City Gambler, 5-1 Galaxy Flight, 6-1 Glittering, Super Scravels, 8-1 Over The Moon, 16-1 Miss Kalaglow, 20-1 Moontalk, She's Electric, 33-1 others.

8.05 SUN PUNTERS CLUB LIMITED STAKES (All-weather: £2,940: 2m) (6) SKY

1 4510 DARK WATERS 28 (CD) N Graham 4-9-8 G Milligan (5) 6
2 3322 MISTER ASPECTO 4 (V,C,F) M Johnston 4-9-9 B Doyle 4
3 6250 SLIP JIG 4 (C,S) P Burke 4-9-8 K Fallon 2
4 4-26 WARM SPELL 25 (C,G,S) G L Moore 7-9-8 M Wigham 3
5 -060 TOTEM DANCER 48 (G) J Eyre 4-9-5 R Winston (7) 1
6 0040 BEHIND THE SCENES 9 (S) C Cyzer 3-8-9 A Morris 5

9-4 Mister Aspecto, 5-2 Slip Jig, 3-1 Warm Spell, 7-1 Totem Dancer, 10-1 Dark Waters, 12-1 Behind The Scenes.

8.35 SAXBY FILLIES HANDICAP (All-weather: £2,277: 1m 2f) (6) SKY

1 2112 CLASSIC BALLET 5 (F) R Guest 4-10-0 C Lowther (5) 6
2 -030 SODEN 47 (F) T Mills 3-9-10 R Ffrench (3) 4
3 0-06 WILLIE RUSHTON 45 (D,G) G L Moore 4-9-9 M Wigham 5
4 /0-0 WOODRISING 12 (D,F,G) C Egerton 5-9-8 M Tebbutt 3
5 6542 SIGNS AND WONDERS 7 (BF) C Cyzer 3-9-5 A Whelan (3) 2
6 4005 HARLEQUIN WALK 9 (C,D,G) R O'Sullivan 6-8-12 J Quinn 1

6-4 Classic Ballet, 9-4 Signs And Wonders, 11-2 Woodrising, 7-1 Willie Rushton, Harlequin Walk, 8-1 Soden.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER
6.15 In Good Faith. 6.45 Red Jam Jar. 7.15 Blair Castle. 7.45 Le Grand Gousier. 8.15 Mine's An Ace. 8.45 Shehab.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

6.15 NEW BIGGIN WALK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £1,982: 2m 1f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 41-P IN GOOD FAITH 4F (D,F) J J Quinn 5-12-0 A Windle (7)
2 -P43 MERRY PANTO 7 (F,G) C Brooks 8-11-6 E James (7)
3 -252 FRISKY THYNE 15 M Hammond 8-11-4 C Bonner (3)
4 2-24 DOWN THE YARD 7 M Chapman 4-10-11 Miss P Robson (5)
5 55-0 SUMMER VILLA 45 (B) K Woodrove 5-10-4 O McPhail (7)
6 84-0 TIOTAO 11 Mrs L Jewell 7-10-3 E Babington (7)
7 4-03 TULLOW LADY 7 D Shaw 6-10-3 S Durack (7)
8 0-5- SOMMERSBY 5F Mrs N Macauley 6-10-1 Miss R Clark (5)
9 025- EARL GRAY 63 (F,G) A J Lockwood 10-10-0 Miss A Deniel (7)

11-4 Frisky Thyne, 4-1 Down The Yard, Tullow Lady, 5-1 In Good Faith, 8-1 Merry Panto, 10-1 Sommersby, 12-1 Summer Villa, Tiotao, 50-1 Earl Gray.

6.45 CLAYTON WALK PLACE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,839: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)

1 5221 FIVE FLAGS 7 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-12-0 R Wilkinson (5)
2 004- RED JAM JAR 63 (CD,F,G) S Bell 12-11-9 K Johnson
3 PP- PREOBLAKENSKY 824 (G,S) S Kettlewell 10-11-4 M A Fitzgerald
4 45-5 CAN SHE CAN CAN 18F C Smith 5-10-7 M Ranger
5 03-2 IJAB 14F (G) J Parkes 7-10-6 A Dobbin
6 3-46 SUSELJA 7 J Jefferson 6-10-4 L Wyer
7 623- JUST FOR A REASON 90 (G) R Juckes 5-10-2 A Maguire
8 56-2 BRITANNIA MILLS 7 (F) M Chapman 6-10-1 W Worthington
9 P-6- CRIMINAL RECORD 341 (B,F) P Bradley 7-10-0 W Marston
10 59-6 ARRANGE A GAME 7 (F) G Woodward 10-10-0 S Taylor (5)

5-2 Five Flags, 7-2 Ijab, 9-2 Britannia Mills, 5-1 Can She Can Can, 7-1 Red Jam Jar, Suselja, 10-1 Just For A Reason, 25-1 others.

7.15 FRESHNEY PLACE NOVICES CHASE (£3,764: 2m 4f) (8)

1 2-11 BLAIR CASTLE 7 (C,F,G) G Balding 6-11-12 A Maguire
2 225- BOSTON MAN 63 (G) R Woodhouse 6-11-0 W Dwan
3 P6-C DRAMATIC PASS 28F M Chapman 8-11-0 W Worthington
4 P15- FAIR AND FANCY 68 (G,S) Miss M Milligan 6-11-0 A S Smith
5 54-0 SHARP SENSATION 49 (F,G) G A Harker 7-11-0 P Niven
6 1F-6 THE OXFORD DON 21 (F,G) N J Pomfret 9-11-0 W Marston
7 2-30 WALKING TALL 11 (B,D,F) T McGovern 6-11-0 M A Fitzgerald
8 50- CRIMSON BROCADE 876 C Fairhurst 6-10-9 J Callaghan

1-2 Blair Castle, 9-2 Boston Man, 7-1 Walking Tall, 8-1 Fair And Fancy, 10-1 others.

7.45 INTERFLORA/FLEURTATIONS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,938: 2m 1f 110yd) (10)

1 FATHER EDDIE 53F J J O'Neill 10-10 R McGrath (5)
2 GOING FOR BROKE 36F C Mann 10-10 J Magee (3)
3 JACKSON FALLS 61F T Easterby 10-10 L Wyer
4 KINGDOM EMPEROR 7F M Camacho 10-10 E Callaghan (3)
5 LEG BEFORUM 42F M Sowersby 10-10 A Dobbin
6 LE GRAND GOUSIER 14F R Williams 10-10 J Osborne
7 NORTHERN MAESTRO 38F Mrs M Reveley 10-10 P Niven
8 OWDY 54F Mrs N Macauley 10-10 E Husband (3)
9 CUMBERIAN 12F M Sowersby 10-5 D Parker (3)
10 MISS ALICE 3F C Smith 10-5 M Ranger

11-4 Going For Broke, 7-2 Le Grand Gousier, 9-2 Jackson Falls, 6-1 Kingdom Emperor, Northern Maestro, 14-1 others.

8.15 FRIARGATE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,687: 2m 4f) (4)

1 1-22 MINE'S AN ACE 7 (D,F,G,S) Miss V Williams 10-12-0 R Greene
2 23-2 THE TOASTER 57 (F,G,S) Miss M Milligan 10-11-5 L Wyer
3 5-63 RUPPLES 7 (C,F,G) M Chapman 10-10-0 W Worthington
4 0-33 MISCHIEVOUS GIRL 7 (F) R Tate 9-10-0 Mrs F Needham

6-4 Mine's An Ace, 7-4 The Toaster, 4-1 Rupples, 11-2 Mischievous Girl.

8.45 BAXTERGATE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,495: 2m 1f 110yd) (11)

1 50- ABYSS 197 Mrs N Macauley 5-11-5 E Husband (3)
2 BELMONT BUCCANEER 1041F K Hogg 5-11-5 K Johnson
3 ROAR ON TOUR 86F Mrs M Reveley 8-11-5 P Niven
4 SPANISH STRIPPER 5F M Chapman 6-11-5 W Worthington
5 BALLET DE COUR 14F T Etherington 4-11-2 L Wyer
6 040- DIG FOR GOLD 124 (BF) Miss S Hall 4-11-2 N Bentley
7 MIDDAY COWBOY 15F M Hammond 4-11-2 R Garritty
8 SHEHAB 282F P Hedger 4-11-2 M A Fitzgerald
9 /15- PETIT FLORA 17F (BF,F) G Holmes 5-11-0 A Maguire
10 056- SCALLYMILL 315 K Hogg 7-11-0 M Foster
11 44 ANNIE'S KITCHEN 42 M Sowersby 4-10-11 D Parker (3)

11-4 Dig For Gold, 7-2 Petit Flora, 4-1 Roar On Tour, 7-1 Midday Cowboy, 8-1 Annie's Kitchen, Shehab, 10-1 Abyss, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Balding, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; C Mann, 5 from 12, 41.7%; C Brooks, 3 from 10, 30.0%; T Easterby, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 22 from 92, 23.9%.

JOCKEYS: Mr C Bonner, 3 winners from 13 rides, 23.1%; L Wyer, 18 from 101, 17.8%; P Niven, 17 from 110, 15.5%; A Maguire, 11 from 74, 14.9%; J Osborne, 5 from 36, 13.9%.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER
2.25 Running De Cerisy. 2.55 Irkutsk. 3.25 Yubralee. 3.55 Lord Nitrogen. 4.30 Herbert Buchanan. 5.05 Faustino.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.25 OPENING EVENT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,709: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1 20-1 RUNNING DE CERISY 58 (B,S) M Pipe 11-2 A P McCoy
2 BOATER 44F R Frost 10-10 J Frost
3 FIRST MAN 50F B Llewellyn 10-10 Guy Lewis (3)
4 IECHYD-DA 50F M Bell 10-10 C Llewellyn
5 SLIEMA CREEK 95F P Hobbs 10-10 G Tormey
6 SOUTHERN CHIEF 306F W G M Turner 10-10 J Power (7)
7 THE GREEN GREY 14F W Muir 10-10 M Richards
8 DON'T FORGET SHOKA 19F J S Moore 10-5 W McFarland

10-11 Running De Cerisy, 9-2 Boater, 6-1 Iechyd-Da, 7-1 Sliema Creek, 8-1 The Green Grey, 20-1 Don't Forget Shoka, 25-1 Southern Chief, 33-1 First Man.

2.55 CLIVE MORGAN SELLING HURDLE (£1,768: 2m 1f) (8)

1 /0-P TOUCH SILVER 36 (D,S) H Manners 7-11-12 Miss A Dudley (7)
2 215- PROUD IMAGE 95 (F) N Ayliffe 5-11-5 Guy Lewis (3)
3 2-1 CHOCOLATE ICE 19 (F) J O'Shea 4-11-2 Michael Brennan (3)
4 100- SAM ROCKETT 7F (D,F) Gay Kelleway 4-11-2 R Johnson
5 00- DUNGANNON LAD 73 W G M Turner 6-10-12 N Willmington (7)
6 04-5 HALHAM TARN 19 (D,S) H Manners 7-10-12 A Dowling (7)
7 136/ IRKUTSK 681 (CD,F,S) M Pipe 6-10-12 A P McCoy
8 06-P COLEBROOK WILLIE 19 D Lloyd 4-10-9 D J Burchell

15-8 Irkutsk, 5-2 Chocolate Ice, 9-2 Proud Image, 11-2 Sam Rockett, 10-1 Halham Tarn, 16-1 Touch Silver, Colebrook Willie, 20-1 Dungannon Lad.

3.25 FLORIDA NOVICES CHASE (£2,778: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 62-0 CARDAN 17 (B) R Frost 11-10-12 B Powell
2 FU/4 RELKONI 7 (F) H Manners 10-10-12 S Curran
3 -2FF THIS IS MY LIFE 7 (D,F) C Brooks 8-10-12 G Bradley
4 3-05 FRASER CAREY 17 (B,D,F) T George 5-10-9 R Johnson
5 -332 VERDE LUNA 17 (F) D Arbuthnot 5-10-9 S McNeill
6 112- YUBRALEE 64 (BF,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-10-9 A P McCoy
7 P0-F MISTRESS TUDOR 17 S Mellor 6-10-7 A Thornton

5-4 Yubralee, 5-2 Verde Luna, 4-1 This Is My Life, 8-1 Fraser Carey, 14-1 Mistress Tudor, 16-1 Cardan, 25-1 Relkoni.

3.55 EIRE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,881: 2m 6f) (8)

1 1-22 LORD NITROGEN 24 (G) B Llewellyn 7-11-10 Michael Brennan
2 3-54 DISTANT STORM 11 B Llewellyn 4-11-5 Guy Lewis
3 /34- MOUNTAIN LEADER 63 D Hyde 7-11-0 A Bates
4 0U-6 MINNISAM 34 A Hobbs 4-10-3 G Shenkin
5 43-6 GERRY'S PRIDE 56 J Mullins 5-10-6 P Henley
6 F23- SAXON MEAD 101 (B) P Hobbs 7-10-5 D J Kavanagh
7 RP1- KARICLEIGH BOY 68P (F,S) R Frost 9-10-3 T O'Connor (7)
8 63/4 KING ACRYLIC 36 R Brotherton 6-10-0 X Aizpuru

7-4 Saxon Mead, 3-1 Lord Nitrogen, 9-2 Mountain Leader, 7-1 Distant Storm, 10-1 Gerry's Pride, 12-1 Karicleigh Boy, King Acrylic, 25-1 Minnisam.

4.30 NEWTON ABBOT TOWN DAY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,792: 2m 5f 110yd) (6)

1 322- HERBERT BUCHANAN 99 (CD,F,G) P Nicholls 7-11-10 A P McCoy
2 321- MR PLAYFULL 72 (F,G,S) R Frost 7-11-7 J Frost
3 PU-P TRUST DEED 28F (B,F,G) S Knight 9-10-12 D Salter (5)
4 -654 NORTHERN OPTIMIST 15 (F,G) B Llewellyn 9-10-5 B Powell
5 /14- JAY JAY'S VOYAGE 112 (CD,F) Mrs J Scrivens 14-10-3 T Dascombe (3)
6 235- MINERS REST 66 (F) P Hobbs 9-10-1 Mr R Widger (7)

11-8 Herbert Buchanan, 7-4 Mr Playfull, 6-1 Miners Rest, 10-1 Jay Jay's Voyage, 14-1 Northern Optimist, 16-1 Trust Deed.

5.05 PHOENIX PRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,117: 2m 1f) (6)

1 224- FAUSTINO 72 (BF,F) P Hobbs 5-12-0 A P McCoy
2 15-3 CONTOSSER 15F (B,D,F) M Pipe 4-11-9 S Wynne
3 3P-P MAN MOOD 56 (D,G,S) C Brooks 6-11-7 M Berry (7)
4 42-2 COOLEY'S VALVE 11 (F) Mrs S Williams 9-11-6 Mr R Thornton (3)
5 -401 TANGO MAN 19 (F) J O'Shea 5-10-1 Michael Brennan (3)
6 1F-6 SHIFTING MOON 10F (CD,F) F Jordan 5-10-0 R Johnson

9-4 Contosser, 3-1 Faustino, 7-2 Tango Man, 4-1 Cooley's Valve, 8-1 Shifting Moon, 20-1 Man Mood.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J O'Shea, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; P Hobbs, 48 from 158, 30.4%; C Brooks, 6 from 20, 30.0%; S Mellor, 4 from 15, 26.7%; P Nicholls, 34 from 132, 25.8%; M Pipe, 89 from 354, 25.1%.

JOCKEYS: D J Burchell, 6 winners from 15 rides, 40.0%; G Bradley, 14 from 45, 31.1%; A P McCoy, 37 from 132, 28.0%; G Tormey, 7 from 31, 22.6%; M Richards, 8 from 42, 19.0%; A Thornton, 13 from 71, 18.3%.

England debate centres on Thorpe

Alan Lee believes both Hollioake brothers could find places in the party for next week's fifth Test at Trent Bridge

Thorpe: lacking belief

GRAHAM THORPE, who scored three Test centuries in four matches earlier this year, is in sudden danger of losing his England place as the selectors strive for a combination to reverse the material and psychological shifts of the Ashes series.

Thorpe has failed to pass 30 in his past six Test innings. Certain of his dismissals have been self-induced, while his slip fielding has suffered some alarming lapses. Most pertinently, he has given the impression of being morose, weary and distracted.

The selectors, who meet today in London, are understandably anxious about the rapidly altered mood of their team and aware that, at 2-1 down with two to play, it has to be put right before the fifth Test begins at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

It will be a relatively straightforward decision to reinstate Andy Caddick for Mike Smith and to give Adam Hollioake his debut at the expense of Mark Ealham. Smith and Ealham, however, are soft targets and nobody will be eager to leave out Thorpe. A left-hander in the middle order is considered an asset against Shane Warne — notwithstanding the fact that Thorpe, who does not pick him, sweeps compulsively — and there is no sustainable argument to replace him on county form.

Mental considerations will weigh heavily, however, and if Thorpe is eventually omitted from the Trent Bridge XI it will be because, at present, he seems to lack vitality and self-belief. If he is spared, which remains likely, it will be because there is no compelling candidate to replace him.

A few old suspects will be lined up as contenders, notably Mark Ramprakash, who continues to play beautifully for Middlesex on good and bad pitches alike. His ability has never been in doubt. After 19 Tests for an average of 16, it is his head for heights that counts against him. Chris Adams will be discussed and perhaps even Graeme Hick, who does, after all, average 42 in his Test cricket against Australia. One other option is to include Hollioake major in the top six, either retaining Ealham or replacing him with the younger Hollioake, Ben.

This last theory will have popular backing but would rate as an outlandish punt by the selectors, for Hollioake minor has done little in his championship cricket for Surrey. Its attractions in psychological terms, however, are obvious and the brothers Hollioake might be just what the dressing-room requires.

Positional changes within the batting order should see Nasser Hussain move up to No 3, a place ahead of John Crawley, with the out of sorts Alec Stewart shifted down to No 6. If his present form both as batsman and wicketkeeper continues, Jack Russell may yet play his fiftieth Test before the summer is over.

Phil Tufnell is, this time, a realistic alternative to Robert Croft and the selectors may even consider using both spin bowlers, especially as injuries troubling Ashley Cowan and Alex Tudor are restricting their alternatives in the fast bowling area.

The management structure around the England team continues to evolve and 140 applications have been received for the new administrative position of international teams' director. Yesterday, however, the corporate affairs executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Richard Little, abruptly stood down, part of Lord Maclaurin's shake-up of the board's public relations.

Possible England party: Atherton, Butcher, Hussain, Crawley, Thorpe, Stewart, A Hollioake, B Hollioake, Croft, Tufnell, Gough, Caddick, Headley.

CRICKET

Incisive Caddick makes his point

By Simon Wilde

TAUNTON (first day of four; Somerset won toss): The Australians, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 102 runs behind Somerset

ANDREW CADDICK, contentiously dropped from the England side that lost the fourth Test match at Headingley earlier this week, produced a hostile yet disciplined spell of three for 30 in ten overs when he was reacquainted with the touring team for Somerset yesterday. It was a performance impressive enough to ensure his recall for the next Test at Trent Bridge; not that there was much doubt about that.

Having had some angry words to say when he learnt of his omission at Leeds, Caddick let the ball speak for him as he claimed the wickets of Slater, Blewett and Langer in the space of 18 balls on a pitch of pace and bounce that suited him well.

After Slater had attempted to hook a ball that was not short enough for the shot and skied a catch to Turner, Blewett — having moved to 20 with five boundaries — and Langer had their stumps shattered via inside edges. While Caddick seamed the ball off a tight line, the bowling at the other end could hardly have been more profligate, the first ten overs from Andre van Troost and Steffan Jones yielding 19 fours and 108 runs.

Earlier, Caddick, pointedly batting in his England helmet, struck a few well-timed blows to reach 16 before miscuing a drive off Warne, who finished with figures of five for 57 — taking his first-class tally for the tour to 45 — as Somerset were dismissed for 284.

With Steve Waugh — captain in the absence of Mark Taylor, who took the surprise decision to forego much-needed batting practice to spend a week with his family in Manchester — scoring a coolly efficient unbeaten half-century against his old county, the Australians closed on 182 for four, having scored at a rate of nearly six an over. One of the few disappointments for a capacity crowd of 6,000 was Mark Waugh's failure to stay until stumps after moving effortlessly to 37.

Having had only one practice session in three days since the end of the fourth Test, it took the Australians most of the morning to find their focus. Healy, untypically, dropped a regulation catch and loose opening spells by Kasprowicz and Julian were punished by the enterprising Keith Parsons, who reached 71, the top score in the county's innings, before being undone by the short-pitched ball. Holloway, less assertively, contributed 11 to a first-wicket stand of 95.

Gradually, a Somerset side lacking the injured Bowler, Harden and Mushtaq Ahmed was reduced to 167 for six and had Waugh persisted with McGrath, bowling with genuine pace, and Warne, extracting turn from a straw-coloured pitch, they would never have recovered as they did. Ecclestone, Trescothick and Lathwell were all hapless victims of Warne and Turner promised to join the procession before Waugh took pity and turned to the less demanding pairing of Bevan and Julian.

Turner duly settled down to occupy the crease for an hour and a half, help himself to a half-century and share a partnership of 73 with Herzberg. In the end, Warne was recalled to sweep up the tail and accounted for Caddick and van Troost, though not without some slapstick. It was not one of Warne's best performances but it was quite good enough for this Somerset side.

SCOREBOARD FROM TAUNTON

SOMERSET: First Innings

K A Parsons c Blewett b Kasprowicz 71
P C L Holloway c Healy b McGrath 11
*S C Ecclestone lbw b Warne 12
M N Lathwell c M E Waugh b Warne 18
M E Trescothick b Warne 8
†R J Turner c Slater b Julian 58
G D Rose c Slater b McGrath 4
S Herzberg b Kasprowicz 18
A R Caddick c McGrath b Warne 16
A P van Troost not out 12
P S Jones lbw b Warne 4
Extras (b 10, nb 42) 52
Total 284

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-95, 2-122, 3-122, 4-143, 5-154, 6-167, 7-240, 8-258, 9-262.

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 14-2-95-2; Julian 14-2-52-1; McGrath 11-2-31-2; Warne 18.3-7-57-5; Bevan 8-2-39-0

AUSTRALIANS: First Innings

M J Slater c Turner b Caddick 18
J L Langer b Caddick 30
G S Blewett b Caddick 20
M E Waugh c Turner b Rose 37
*S R Waugh not out 51
M G Bevan not out 12
Extras (nb 14) 14
Total (4 wkts) 182

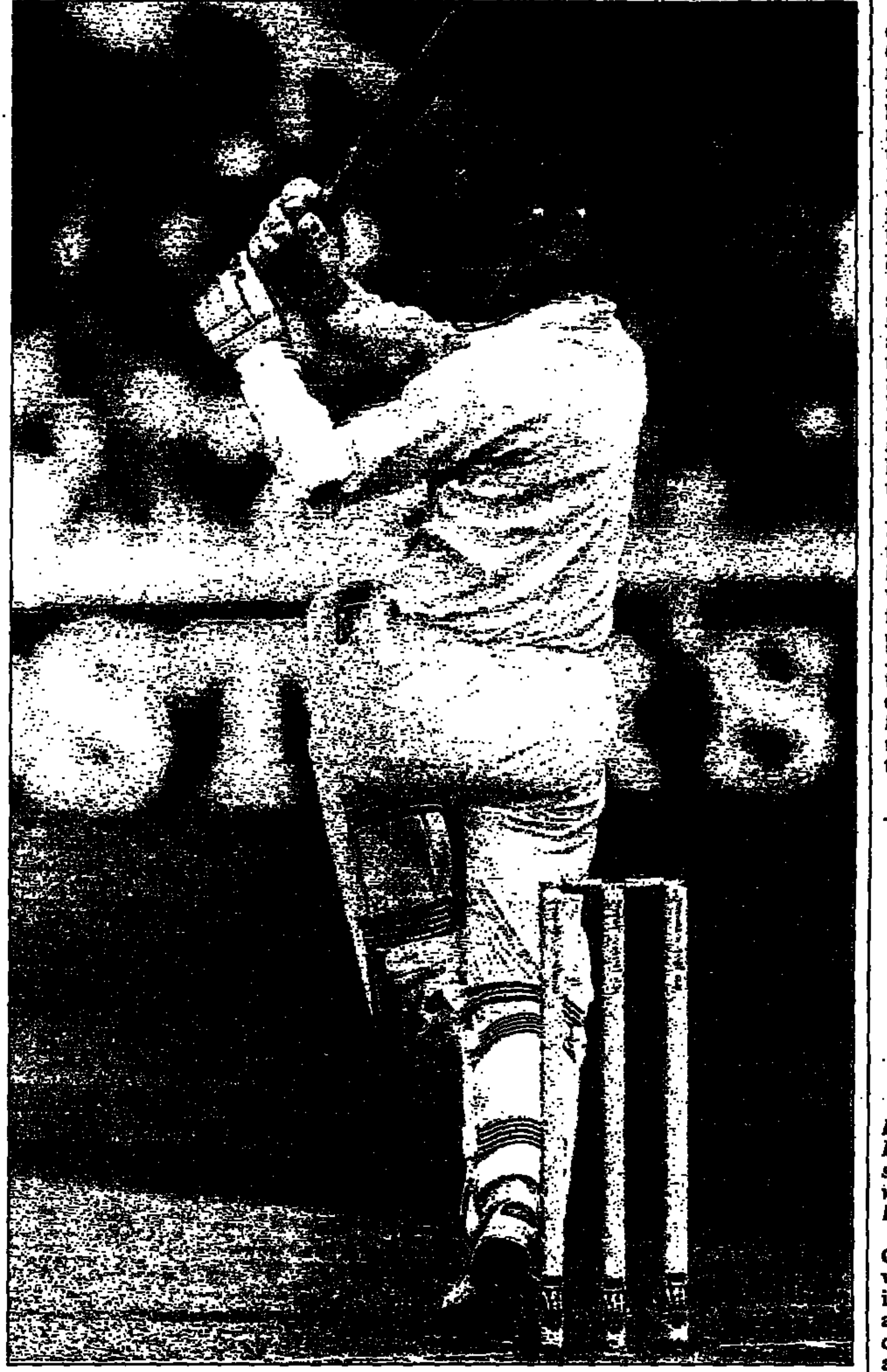
G D McGrath, †I A Healy, S K Warne, B P Julian and M S Kasprowicz to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-63, 3-82, 4-145.

BOWLING: Caddick 10-1-30-3; Van Troost 11-0-92-0; Jones 3-0-31-0; Rose 6-1-25-1; Parsons 2-0-4-0.

Umpires: N T Plews and J F Steele

CLIVE MASON / ALLSPORT



Parsons pulls Kasprowicz for four during his dashing half-century at Taunton

Essex take cue from Law's bold example

By Michael Henderson

COLCHESTER (second day for four): Leicestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 515 runs behind Essex

ESSEX batted with real purpose yesterday, to try to shape a winning position in a match that lost 45 overs on the first day to rain. Stuart Law made his highest score for the club, Nasser Hussain contributed an extra hundred and there were runs for Ronnie Irani and Paul Grayson, who shared a fifth-wicket partnership of 143. Then they took two wickets in the ten overs that were left to them after Prichard had declared.

Law's 175 — four runs short of his best first-class score, for Queensland against Tasmania — took the palm, for it was absolutely outstanding. In an hour and a half yesterday morning, before the rain returned, he and Hussain made 122 quite glorious runs and when he was stumped, jumping out of his crease to drive Brimson, he was a very disappointed batsman.

It was a joy to watch somebody play in such a free-spirited way. Indeed, if there is a more attractive innings in the championship this season, then those who see it will be lucky. Law is not only a fine all-round cricketer, he is also a superb entertainer. He sprinkled stardust here, and lit up two rather murky days.

He made his runs from 223 balls with 23 fours and those three sixes he hit on Thursday. Hussain, who was happy to watch him lead the charge at first, hardly suffered by comparison when they resumed. Early in the morning he took three successive boundaries off Millns and, by moving his feet with characteristic swiftness, he belted Pierson over the rope at mid-wicket.

Hussain features in the highest third, fourth and fifth-wicket stands in the club's history, which is a record well worth having. He and Law were 30 runs short of the 347 that Hussain shared with Mark Waugh, against Lancashire at Ilford five years ago, when Law finally capitulated but they would no doubt settle for making 317 every time they batted together.

Having gone to his second hundred of the week, following the one he made in England's second innings at Headingley, Hussain eventually went after batting 5½ hours for 128. Whitaker held a low catch when Hussain advanced to drive Brimson and sent the ball whirling towards backward point.

If Leicestershire felt they had earned some respite from the shellacking their bowlers were taking, Grayson and Irani disabused them by going for their shots in an uninhibited manner.

Grayson, who has grown up considerably since he joined Essex from Yorkshire last year, batted more freely even than Irani, who has never been a shy soul.

To his seven fours, Grayson added a pulled six off Mullally as he went to his half-century in 60 balls. Essex went into tea at 451 for four and the fifth-wicket partnership was only broken when Pierson bowled Grayson behind his legs.

Irani did not long outlast him. Wells, at mid-on, took the catch that ended his innings of 76 and gave Pierson another wicket. In poor light, Essex declared on 533 for eight, their highest score of the season.

They have won their past three championship matches here by an innings and will resume today ever hopeful. Traditionally, the ball turns on this ground and, with his second ball, Such had Maddy caught at short leg.

Masterly Russell's pertinent reminder

By Richard Hobson

BRISTOL (first day of four; Pakistan A won toss): Pakistan A, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 54 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE would not have dared to imagine themselves in such an even position when they collapsed to eight for three and 23 for five on a quick, grassy pitch. Yet the powers of recovery that have underpinned their challenge for the championship were evident again as they fought back against a capable and motivated Pakistan A side.

Tim Hancock and Martyn Ball completed half-centuries and Jack Russell contributed an important 26 after the new-ball attack of Shoaib Akhtar and Abdur Razzak filleted the top order. Akhtar, 21, bowled 17 brisk overs from a run-up stretching three-quarters of the way to the sightscreen and returned the best figures of the tour of five for 62.

He struck Windows on the helmet shortly before a brief break for rain and hit Trainor's off stump on the resumption. In the next over, from Razzak, Windows was leg-before and Church edged to second slip. A firm stroke by Dawson was snaffled instinctively at short leg by Salim Elahi and Alleyne fended the next ball, which rose sharply, to gully.

Somewhat excitably, the tourists revealed their inexperience by bowling too short. Hancock, in particular, hooked with elan in reaching 50 in 137 minutes. Four balls later, he drove tamely to second slip.

Ball worked the tiring Akhtar off his legs for six and produced further well-timed strokes before he, too, perished soon after completing 50, in 91 minutes, when he hooked Razzak to long leg.

Other than Akhtar, the wicketkeeping of the dexterous Javed Qadeer took the eye. It was some achievement not to concede a bye in unfamiliar conditions and, the innings over for 167, he could sit back and study, in Russell, a master at work.

Mike Smith removed Ali Naqvi before Russell held Salim Elahi to his right off Lewis, moved swiftly to account for Mujahid Jamshed, and then took a sharp, low chance offered by Rana Qayyum off Hancock. He would not let England down if recalled for Trent Bridge.

Sussex fail to come to terms with Donald

By John Thicknesse

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Sussex, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 157 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Warwickshire

SUSSEX had the misfortune to be caught on an ideal pitch for seam bowlers at Edgbaston and, reeling from a scorching new-ball burst by Allan Donald, were routed for 63 by Graeme Welch and Dougie Brown, his henchmen.

Donald took four for 11 in 10.2 overs, Welch had two for 22 and Brown three for 30. Sussex, demoralised and outclassed, contributed to their downfall with some reckless strokes: but Donald would have overpowered better teams than they.

Following on 164 behind, they lost their openers for seven runs in four overs after two short breaks for bad light. From unpromising beginnings — two breaks for rain within 67 minutes of the start — it was a remarkable and, except for Sussex, a rivetting day's play, stemming from an innings of enterprise and flair by Neil Smith.

Arriving at 60 for three after Warwickshire had lost three wickets for four runs, Smith counter-attacked so effectively that, with Mark Wagh, he added 70 in 57 minutes, swinging the initiative.

On a pitch offering plentiful movement off the seam as well as variable bounce, Smith hit seven ringing fours off 46 balls, spreading confidence throughout the lower order. There was a further twist, however, for when Warwickshire lost Welch at 188 for nine Moles, who broke a finger yesterday, emerged through the pavilion gate as Sussex were walking off. Throwing the bat at anything that gave him room to swing, he smashed five fours off 15 balls.

It meant that to save the follow-on, Sussex needed 78 instead of 39, a target they never looked confident of reaching when Donald, having passed the bat nine times, dismissed Pierce and Athey in three balls in his sixth over, Athey with one that straightened off the pitch to flatten his off stump.

Apart from Keith Newell, who hung on for almost an hour, and Drakes, whose 15 included a six and two fours, the rest was a procession. In 117 minutes, they were in and out.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tour match

Gloucestershire v Pakistan A

BRISTOL (first day of four; Pakistan A won toss): Pakistan A, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 54 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

N J Trainor b Shoaib 6
M G N Windows lbw b Abdul 1
T H C Hancock c Mohammad b Shoaib 50
M J Church c Mohammad b Abdul 0
R I Dawson c Salim b Shoaib 7
*M W Alleyne c Hasan b Shoaib 0
†R C Russell c Ali Naqvi b Ali Husain Rizvi 26
M C J Ball c Salim b Abdul 50
R P Davis c Javed b Abdul 12
A M Smith c and b Shoaib 5
J Lewis not out 0
Extras (lb 6, nb 4) 10
Total 167

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-8, 3-8, 4-23, 5-23, 6-66, 7-114, 8-159, 9-164.

BOWLING: Shoaib Akhtar 17-3-62-5; Abdul Razzak 11.2-3-33-4; Azhar Mahmood 13-4-35-0; Ali Naqvi 2-0-9-0; Ali Husain Rizvi 8-2-22-1

PAKISTAN A: First Innings

Ali Naqvi lbw b Smith 0
Salim Elahi c Russell b Lewis 21
Mujahid Jamshed c Russell b Ball 35
Hasan Raza not out 39
*Mohammad Wasim c Alleyne b Ball 0
Rana Qayyum c Russell b Hancock 7
†Javed Qadir not out 5
Extras (lb 2, nb 4) 6
Total (5 wkts) 113

Azhar Mahmood, Abdul Razzak, Ali Husain Rizvi and Shoaib Akhtar to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-47, 3-75, 4-79, 5-90.

BOWLING: Smith 10-4-29-1; Lewis 11-3-31-1; Alleyne 8-3-9-0; Ball 10-3-32-2; Hancock 5-3-6-1; Windows 1-0-4-0

Umpires: M J Kitchen and R Palmer

Britannic Assurance county championship

Durham v Derbyshire

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, require 209 runs to beat Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 254 (C J Adams 107, S J E Brown 4 for 63)

Second Innings

A S Rollins run out 1
K J Barnett c Lewis b Brown 5
M R May c Boiling b Foster 64
M J Vandrau c Boiling b Wood 14
C J Adams lbw b Brown 1
V P Clarke c Speak b Betts 25
†K M Krikken not out 36
*P A J DeFreitas b Brown 12
A J Harris lbw b Brown 0
K J Dean c Speak b Brown 5
D E Malcolm b Foster 9
Extras (lb 4) 4
Total 176

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-20, 3-49, 4-50, 5-93, 6-134, 7-151, 8-151, 9-157.

BOWLING: Brown 15-6-58-5; Wood 12-2-42-1; Betts 9-2-20-1; Foster 11.4-3-33-2; Boiling 8-3-19-0

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis lbw b DeFreitas 35
S Hutton lbw b Harris 8
J E Morris b Malcolm 2
N J Speak c DeFreitas b Harris 6
*D C Boon b Harris 0
†M P Speight c Krikken b DeFreitas 9
M J Foster c Adams b Malcolm 37
M M Betts c Harris b DeFreitas 23
J Boiling lbw b DeFreitas 17
J Wood not out 21
S J E Brown c Krikken b DeFreitas 5
Extras (lb 4, w 2, nb 4) 10
Total (57 overs) 174

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-29, 3-38, 4-38, 5-63, 6-82, 7-109, 8-146, 9-146.

BOWLING: Malcolm 14-3-30-2; Harris 21-1-72-3; DeFreitas 15-3-37-5; Dean 7-0-31-0.

Second Innings

J J B Lewis not out 28
S Hutton lbw b Malcolm 0
J E Morris c Krikken b Malcolm 6
N J Speak c Rollins b Harris 1
J Boiling not out 9
Extras (lb 4) 4
Total (3 wkts) 48

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-25, 3-28.

BOWLING: Malcolm 11-2-22-2; Harris 11-2-22-1.

Bonus points: Durham 4 Derbyshire 6.

Umpires: A A Jones and P Willey.

Essex v Leicestershire

COLCHESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 515 runs behind Essex

ESSEX: First Innings

*P J Prichard c and b Mullally 2
D D J Robinson c Pierson b Millns 4
N Hussain c Whitaker b Brimson 128
S G Law st Nixon b Brimson 175
R C Irani c Wells b Pierson 76
A P Grayson b Pierson 81
D R Law c Nixon b Millns 4
†R J Rollins c Millns b Pierson 15
J C Powell not out 4
A P Cowan not out 0
Extras (b 1, lb 15, w 6, nb 22) 44
Total (8 wkts dec) 533

Score at 120 overs: 466-4

P M Such did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-9, 3-326, 4-363, 5-506, 6-509, 7-527, 8-529.

BOWLING: Millns 28-8-97-2; Mullally 33-7-114-1; Johnson 7-1-38-0; Wells 7-2-35-0; Brimson 32-5-124-2; Pierson 23-2-109-3

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells c Rollins b Cowan 6
D L Maddy c Robinson b Such 1
A R K Pierson not out 4
I J Sutcliffe not out 1
Extras (b 4, nb 2) 6
Total (2 wkts, 10 overs) 18

*J J Whitaker, N C Johnson, B F Smith, †P A Nixon, D J Millns, A D Mullally and M T Brimson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-11

BOWLING: Cowan 3-1-3-1; Irani 3-0-8-0; Such 2-2-0-1; Powell 2-0-3-0

Bonus points: Essex 4 Leicestershire 1

Umpires: T E Jesty and B Leadbeater

Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire

COLWYN BAY (second day of four; Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 165 for nine wickets against Glamorgan

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

M P Dowman c Dale b Waqar 62
R T Robinson b Waqar 8
N J Astle c Shaw b Watkin 47
*P Johnson lbw b Watkin 1
G F Archer c and b Croft 10
U Afzaal c Cottey b Croft 3
C M Tolley b Thomas 10
†W M Noon not out 14
K P Evans lbw b Croft 1
J E Hindson b Waqar 0
M N Bowen not out 1
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 5) 8
Total (9 wkts, 52 overs) 165

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-71, 3-79, 4-108, 5-112, 6-131, 7-158, 8-160, 9-163.

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 13-1-57-3; Watkin 10-3-41-2; Croft 22-8-35-3; Thomas 7-1-29-1.

GLAMORGAN: S P James, H Morris, A Dale, *M P Maynard, P A Cottey, R D B Croft, †A D Shaw, Waqar Younis, S D Thomas, S L Watkin, G P Butcher.

Bonus points: Glamorgan 4 Nottinghamshire 0.

Umpires: H D Bird and G Sharp.

Warwickshire v Sussex

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Sussex, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 157 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

*A J Moles c Rao b Robinson 31
M A Wagh c Moores b Robinson 57
D L Hemp c Athey b Drakes 15
A Singh c Drakes b Edwards 0
T L Penney c Robinson b Drakes 1
N M K Smith c Moores b Robinson 38
D R Brown c Moores b Edwards 6
G Welch b Drakes 12
A F Giles b Robinson 4
A A Donald c Edwards b Drakes 23
†K J Piper not out 17
Extras (lb 3, w 2, nb 18) 23
Total (59 overs) 227

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-59, 3-60, 4-130, 5-145, 6-149, 7-154, 8-185, 9-188.

BOWLING: Drakes 21-5-84-4; Kirtley 10-0-50-0; Edwards 14-4-37-2; Robinson 14-0-53-4.

SUSSEX: First Innings

R K Rao run out 3
M T E Peirce c Piper b Donald 10
C W J Athey b Donald 0
M Newell c Wagh b Brown 7
K Greenfield c sub b Welch 4
K Newell lbw b Brown 17
*†P Moores c Singh b Brown 0
V C Drakes c Brown b Welch 15
A D Edwards b Donald 0
M A Robinson not out 0
R J Kirtley b Donald 1
Extras (w 6) 6
Total (26.2 overs) 63

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-13, 3-13, 4-20, 5-26, 6-26, 7-41, 8-56, 9-56

BOWLING: Donald 10.2-5-11-4; Welch 12-7-22-2; Brown 4-0-30-3

Second Innings

R K Rao c Piper b Donald 4
M T E Peirce lbw b Brown 0
A D Edwards not out 2
M A Robinson not out 1
Total (2 wkts) 7

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-4

BOWLING: Donald 2-1-7-1; Brown 2-2-0-1.

Bonus points: Warwickshire 5 Sussex 4.

Umpires: B Dudleston and J H Hampshire.

Worcestershire v Kent

WORCESTER (second day of four): Worcestershire have scored 409 for seven wickets against Kent

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

*T M Moody lbw b Fleming 60
T S Curtis c Marsh b Headley 25
G A Hick c Cowdrey b Fleming 46
K R Spiring lbw b Fleming 5
G R Haynes c Marsh b Igglesden 35
D A Leatherdale not out 120
V S Solanki c Wells b Headley 61
†S J Rhodes c Wells b Igglesden 11
P J Newport not out 23
Extras (b 5, lb 6, nb 12) 23
Total (7 wkts, 116 overs) 409

R J Chapman and M M Mirza to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-137, 3-143, 4-158, 5-208, 6-344, 7-381.

BOWLING: Headley 28-5-91-2; Igglesden 23-3-61-2; Strang 20-8-61-0; Ealham 22-4-80-0; Thompson 9-0-56-0; Fleming 14-2-49-3.

KENT: E T Smith, A P Igglesden, T R Ward, A P Wells, G R Cowdrey, M A Ealham, M V Fleming, P A Strang, *†S A Marsh, D W Headley, J B D Thompson.

Bonus points: Worcestershire 4 Kent 3.

Umpires: J D Bond and J H Harris.

Yorkshire v Northamptonshire

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 46 runs behind Northamptonshire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

A McGrath b Taylor 7
M P Vaughan lbw b Taylor 13
*D Byas b Taylor 4
D S Lehmann b Taylor 11
C White lbw b Mohammad 22
B Parker b Boswell 26
†R J Blakey lbw b Taylor 24
A C Morris c Fordham b Curran 4
D Gough c Ripley b Boswell 11
C E W Silverwood c Ripley b Taylor 7
R D Stemp not out 5
Extras (lb 8, w 6, nb 18) 32
Total (52 overs) 166

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-29, 3-44, 4-61, 5-99, 6-117, 7-132, 8-145, 9-155

BOWLING: Mohammad Akram 14-5-28-1; Taylor 16-3-45-6; Boswell 9-1-45-2; Penberthy 6-2-18-0; Curran 7-2-22-1.

Second Innings

A McGrath not out 39
M P Vaughan not out 29
Extras (nb 6) 6
Total (no wkt) 74

BOWLING: Mohammad Akram 7-0-34-0; Taylor 5-0-28-0; Snape 3-2-1-0; Boswell 2-0-11-0.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

D J Roberts b White 45
R J Warren c Byas b Silverwood 0
A Fordham c Byas b Silverwood 0
*R J Bailey c Morris b Silverwood 61
K M Curran lbw b Stemp 63
A L Penberthy c and b White 2
J N Snape c Morris b Silverwood 5
†D Ripley c White b Stemp 24
J P Taylor c and b Stemp 2
S A J Boswell not out 30
Mohammad Akram c Blakey b White 16
Extras (b 12, lb 8, nb 18) 38
Total (81.4 overs) 286

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-10, 3-125, 4-147, 5-156, 6-163, 7-231, 8-232, 9-237

BOWLING: Gough 17-3-60-0; Silverwood 23-10-62-4; White 17.4-0-61-3; Morris 9-1-50-0; Stemp 15-3-43-3.

Bonus points: Yorkshire 4 Northamptonshire 6.

Umpires: V A Holder and R Julian.

AON RISK TROPHY (one day): The Oval: Surrey 311-6 (I J Ward 97, J A Knott 82); Essex 203 (D G Wilson 87 not out). Surrey win by 108 runs.

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CRICKET: HOLLIOAKE, SALES AND SHAH BRING THEIR EXPERIENCE TO BEAR AT UNDER-19 LEVEL

Classy England cruise to victory

By Barney Spender

HOVE (England Under-19 won toss): England Under-19 beat Zimbabwe Under-19 by nine wickets

All eyes were on Hollioake yesterday as he took two wickets in the under-19 international against Zimbabwe

PERHAPS it was England's humiliation in Harare last winter at the hands of Eddo Brandes, an up-country chicken farmer, which persuaded Mickey Stewart and his fellow selectors, John Abrahams and Graham Saville, to face the ire of some county coaches by picking the strongest possible Under-19 side for the two NatWest one-day internationals against Zimbabwe. But, in the event, such caution was hardly necessary.

Another chicken farmer, Colin Delport, struck a sweet 45 not out to give the Zimbabwe total some respectability, but there was precious little else to contend with as England swept to a comfortable nine-wicket win with 22.3 overs to spare in the opening encounter at Hove yesterday.

The gulf in class and experience was enormous and it is difficult to see it narrowing. While England could boast Ben Hollioake, who played for the full England side in the Texaco Trophy in May, and Owais Shah, who toured with England A, among their eight regular county players, not one Zimbabwe player had first-class experience; most are still at school. The Test series to follow could be a joke unless the England selectors rethink their policy.

Hollioake, inevitably, was the main attraction for the television cameras and the small, but appreciative, crowd which included David Graveney, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, the three national selectors. Hollioake responded with a controlled early spell of bowling in which he took two for 20 from seven overs before Delport opened his shoulders to take 19 from his last over.

Later, after David Sales had departed for a ruthless 74, Hollioake got his first runs from a lucky edge before helping Shah, who made a controlled 57 not out, to secure victory with 33 from 28 (mostly wayward) deliveries. Whether the three Gs learnt anything from it is anyone's guess.

The one note of concern was England's bowling, with 31 no-balls and wides. Ryan Sidebottom, whose father Arnie played once for England, bowled ten wides, while Alex Tudor, of whom much is expected, betrayed a careless streak with one wide and all seven no-balls.

That allowed the Zimbabweans a solid start, although once Christopher Read had taken an excellent catch in front of first slip to remove Lance Malloch-Brown, the innings slipped down a gear. Read, who is under the tutelage of Jack Russell at Gloucestershire, showed a tidy pair of gloves to collect four catches, and a fortuitous leg-side stumping to remove Mbuleki Nkala. David Shepherd referred the decision to Chris Balderstone, the third umpire, who gave Nkala out even though television pictures taken from mid-wicket were less than conclusive.

Only the opener, Douglas Marillier, and Bertus Erasmus, the captain, reached double figures while extras finished alongside Delport as joint top-scorer.

The target never looked remotely enough to worry the English and Sales and Shah quickly dispatched some bowling which had more in common with the village green than an international stage.

Sales, in particular, was in his element. He has struggled for a permanent position in the Northamptonshire side since making a double-century on his first-class debut, but he is a powerful striker of the ball and he relished the width the Zimbabwe attack gave him. He raced to 50 from 37 balls and by the time Nkala, the only black player in the Zimbabwe side and their most impressive bowler, induced a top edge, he had hit 12 fours and one six.

SCOREBOARD FROM HOVE

ZIMBABWE UNDER-19

D Marillier c Read b Hollioake	35
L Malloch-Brown c Read b Tudor	7
J Oosthuizen c Read b Hollioake	9
A Hoffman b Cosker	1
*B Erasmus b Sidebottom	31
M Nkala st Read b Batty	9
A Neethling c Read b Sidebottom	3
†C Delport not out	45
A Steyn not out	7
Extras (lb 14, w 17, nb 14)	45
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	192

B McCoun and I Engelbrecht did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-76, 3-77, 4-82, 5-92, 6-115, 7-152.

BOWLING: Tudor 10-0-46-1; Sidebottom 10-1-24-2; Franks 9-2-36-0; Hollioake 10-0-43-2; Cosker 6-3-18-1; Batty 5-1-11-1

ENGLAND UNDER-19

O A Shah not out	57
D J G Sales c Hoffman b Nkala	74
B C Hollioake not out	33
Extras (w 24, nb 8)	32
Total (1 wkt, 27.3 overs)	196

*A Flintoff, D C Nash, G J Batty, †C M W Read, A J Tudor, P J Franks, D A Cosker and R J Sidebottom did not bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-132.

BOWLING: Steyn 7.3-0-55-0; Nkala 8-0-56-1; McCoun 3-0-19-0; Hoffman 1-0-14-0; Engelbrecht 5-0-31-0; Neethling 3-0-21-0.

Umpires: D R Shepherd and G I Burgess.

Astle and Dowman offer only resistance

By Pat Gibson

COLWYN BAY (second day of four; Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 165 for nine wickets against Glamorgan

A DETERMINED innings of 62 by Nottinghamshire's Matthew Dowman, who is at last beginning to fulfil the potential he showed when he made 267 for England Under-19 against West Indies four years ago, could not prevent Glamorgan from making up for lost time yesterday.

Rain, which had washed out the first day, prevented a start until after lunch and interfered again later, but Glamorgan still picked up enough bonus points to move above Gloucestershire at the top of the county championship.

With better weather promised for the weekend, they will be looking for their sixth victory on a pitch which should do much for the rehabilitation of Robert Croft.

Waqar Younis struck the first blow by knocking back Robinson's off stump with his famed inswinging yorker, but the Pakistan fast bowler had to be withdrawn when Astle launched into a withering assault which brought him 47 off 40 balls, including seven fours and a six driven straight out of the ground off Croft.

Watkin had him caught behind down the leg side and dismissed Johnson, leg-before aiming across the line, before Croft began to find enough turn to make Glamorgan regret even more the indiscipline that had cost them the services of North as a second spinner.

Archer was caught and bowled off a leading edge and Afzaal brilliantly taken by Cottey at slip as Croft claimed three for 35 from 22 overs. Thomas yorked Tolley before Waqar returned, cursing when Dowman pulled him for six to go with his seven fours, and then roaring with delight as the left-hander holed out to Dale at mid-wicket. Dowman had defied Glamorgan for almost three hours. The rest were not so troublesome.

Derbyshire's control maintained by May

By Jack Bailey

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 209 runs to beat Derbyshire

EVEN though they may well be chiding themselves for not achieving more than 176 in their second innings, Derbyshire will rightly believe that the chips are stacked firmly in their favour. Durham needing 257 — the highest score of the match — to win when they set out last evening, lost three wickets in the final 22 overs of the day and their cause is all but lost, despite more able resistance by Lewis.

The pitch has produced a bowlers' benefit. One shudders to think what Les Jackson in his prime would have achieved. As it is, Malcolm, DeFreitas, Harris and Dean need only to bowl straight and to a length and let the odd grubber and lifter do their work. It is understood that, while the pitch has been reported, as it was bound to be, Durham's special dispensation for their three-year-old square will entail no visit from the inspectorate.

In any event, weather permitting, Derbyshire should be celebrating their first championship win of the season with a day to spare. Yesterday belonged first to the Durham tailenders — after Foster had fallen to a blinding slip catch by Adams from the first ball of the day — and then to Michael May. His gritty innings of 64 hauled Derbyshire back to their feet after most of the heroes of their first innings had perished.

Wood, Betts and Boiling all played a part in seeing Durham to within 80 runs of Derbyshire's first-innings total, while DeFreitas eventually wrapped up the innings for a five-wicket haul. Then, Derbyshire juggled their batting order and contrived to lose their first five wickets for 50, among them Adams, who alone in this match has dictated to the bowlers. He had inadvertently rubbed some alien ointment into an eye when in the field and had difficulty seeing out of it. Luckily for Derbyshire, this occurred after his brilliant catch.

Coming in at the fall of the second wicket, May did his share of playing and missing, but he stood firm for nearly three hours and with Krikken indulged in the longest period of resistance in the match so far. It was a vital bit of cricket for his side. In ten first-class innings this season, May has made two centuries and two half-centuries and he looks a real find.

Leatherdale puts dent in Kent's ambition

By Derek Hodgson

WORCESTER (second day of four): Worcestershire have scored 409 for seven wickets against Kent

KENT will now have to rely on last-day declarations if they are to enhance their county championship ambitions on this placid pitch. There is only one outstanding team among the 18, Surrey, and they are no more reliable than the weather. The team that dodges the rain, probably Essex, will win the championship pennant.

David Leatherdale, batting at No 6, dropped at slip when 32, completed his first century of the summer off 189 balls to thwart Kent, who, having taken Worcestershire to 208 for five, must have had hopes of a quick resolution.

A shower before the start cost four overs, leaving members to continue their speculation about the England and Wales Cricket Board restructuring plan, to be unveiled on Tuesday. They fear that they are to be offered even less first-class cricket and even more rock'n'roll day-night games.

Tom Moody and Tim Curtis had been able to score 58 off 16 overs on the truncated first day. Yesterday the wind was warm and sticky, offering lateral movement. With eight added, Curtis survived an appeal for leg-before and was out, caught behind, swishing at the next ball. He was unhappy. Jack Bond, the umpire, was to follow this with two leg-before decisions in favour of Matthew Fleming.

Graeme Hick took eight overs for his first seven runs but greeted Mark Ealham with a classic off-drive for four and Julian Thompson with two pulls to the boundary. Fleming was a more difficult proposition, first removing Moody, who hit ten fours in his 60, and then Reuben Spiring to the fifth ball after lunch. At 156, he persuaded Hick into a mistimed pull, returning a spell of 10-2-20-3.

Gavin Haynes and Leatherdale added 65 in 21 overs, without frills, until Igglesden, who had found a little variable bounce, had Haynes jabbing down to be caught behind. The sixth-wicket pair picked up pace to take their stand to 136 in 36 overs, Vikram Solanki reaching a second successive fifty before being caught at slip off the new ball.

Pressure on Taylor to tame Yorkshire

By Ivo Tennant

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 46 runs behind Northamptonshire

AFTER conceding a first-innings lead of 120, Yorkshire absolved themselves to a considerable extent through the batting of their openers, Anthony McGrath and Michael Vaughan, in the final session. Northamptonshire, for whom Rob Bailey and Kevin Curran made half-centuries, will be looking to Paul Taylor to bowl today as he did on Thursday, and to some atmospheric help for him that visiting sides expect at Headingley.

The ball did not swing as much as on the first day or, perhaps more to the point, Yorkshire did not have the right type of bowler to use the conditions. Silverwood finished with four wickets, achieved through movement off the pitch, and Gough had nothing to show for looking to exploit the uneven bounce — other than a sore knee. Northamptonshire gained a deserved lead for their diligence after losing two early wickets.

Yorkshire's first innings did not last beyond the opening over of the day, Taylor taking his sixth wicket when he had Blakey leg before. Northamptonshire then lost Warren and Fordham without scoring, both nicely caught at second slip by Byas off Silverwood, before they were buoyed by two substantial partnerships; this while Yorkshire had need of five different substitute fielders, although not concurrently. These included a 15-year-old work experience boy and Arnie Sidebottom, who now runs their academy and whose years of bowling into the wind have taken their toll.

Roberts and Bailey added 115, the captain authoritatively using his height to good effect, and Curren and Ripley later put on 68. Even the last wicket pairing of Mohammad Akram and Boswell, whose unbeaten 30 was a career best score, managed 49.

If Bailey's half-century was the most valued, in that his side had looked liable to capitulate early in his innings, then Curran's was the most inventive. With a series of short arm jabs he collected eight fours and struck Stemp onto the roof of the football stand, an amalgam of strength and timing.

The most considered stroke play, however, came when Yorkshire went in again. Neither Taylor nor Akram was able to gain the movement through the air or off the pitch that they had on the first day and the openers profited.

Golfers gripped by words of science faction

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

THIS is the moment to tell readers about an event that is a long-time favourite of this column: the World Scientific Congress of Golf. Papers are now being solicited for the congress next year, which will be held (naturally) at St Andrews. These will be judged on scientific merit and their relevance to the theme of the conference.

The themes include: The Golfer: biomechanics of the swing, nutrition, training: psychology; assessment of coaching methods: health, fitness, injuries: sociology and management; statistics of performance and handicapping. Of special interest — one might also say special relevance to this bizarre pastime — will be "the effect of ageing on player performance and incidence of golf-related injuries". The last principally psychological, I would have thought.

The Golf Course is another section: "Issues to be discussed include environmental implications for design, maintenance and management." So I had better not start scoffing and making jokes about trousers, had I? At least two cheers, then, for the World Scientific Congress of Golf.

Son Diego

It seems an age since we last had a Diego story, but now I learn that Diego Junior has signed for Napoli at the age of ten. Little Diego Maradona is the illegitimate son of Cristiana Sinagra and Big Diego. Big Diego has never acknowledged him, but an Italian court recognised the paternity two years ago. Now Little Diego — whom faithful readers of this space will recall created a furore when he played in a tournament in Naples earlier this year, because various different clubs were all keen to claim him as their very own — has signed for one of Napoli's junior clubs. Big Diego, you will remember, played for Napoli for seven years before he left in 1991, fleeing drug charges.

He's got his fathers hands
Tony Husband

Gloves are off

The designated hitter rule is one of the classic examples of selling-out the heartland of the game in order to win over a crass fringe audience.

Now, American baseball is all in a tizzy because new schedules require teams from two leagues, the National League and the American League, to play against each other as part of the regular season. Under the designated hitter rule that prevails in the American League, pitchers do not bat, the DH doing the job for them. But this season, when an American League team visits a National League stadium, the game must be played properly and the pitcher must bat.

Jaret Wright, a pitcher with Cleveland Indians, was hit on the finger while batting — trying to lay down a bunt, since you ask, baseball fans — and had to leave the game, muttering: "I haven't swung a bat in three years, not since I was in high school." Baseball batters wear gloves to improve grip and reduce the sting from an unsprung bat, but the idea of protective gloves is unknown. The Society of American Baseball Research (UK Chapter) is sending to the Indians a pair of cricket batting gloves.

Washed out

Baseball continues to go slumming for audiences. Milwaukee Brewers, suffering from poor results and still poorer crowds, had the brainwave of offering free golf umbrellas, to go to the first 20,000 to arrive at a game against Kansas City Royals. It was called, unfancifully, the Golf Umbrella Giveaway. Unfortunately, the game was cancelled because of floods. Torrential rain left the playing field awash.

Settling a score

Primo Nebiolo's successful campaign to let druggies off more lightly in the sport of athletics — you now only get a two-year suspension the first time you get caught; before it was four years — finds an answering echo in Colombia. The national football team, faring poorly of late in the South American World Cup qualifying competition, recently managed a 1-0 win over Ecuador. The goalscorer, Anthony de Avila, said: "I'd like to dedicate the goal to all those who are, for some reason or another, deprived of their freedom. I'd like to dedicate it to Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela." These, drug *fans, are the two brothers who* ran the Cali drug cartel.

Non-starter

Snaking out of my fax machine came the startling news that Alan Shearer is to start the Great North Run soon. His chance of finishing it, I thought, are slight. But no, I read on, he is just the chap who says ready, steady, go in this event that is, not inappropriately, sponsored by Bupa.

Causing a flutter

An English bookmaking firm has caused all kinds of consternation in Italian football. The firm, Globet, is licensed in Italy and it came up with the notion of betting on referees. It opened a book on the question of how many referees will last the course of the season about to start. Who will drop out because of injury? Who will be discarded for incompetence as the season progresses? Who will be kicked off the list at the season's close?

This rather silly bet, apparently harmless enough, has set off the alarm-bells. Such luminaries as the Federal Procurator are investigating the business on behalf of the Italian FA: and, news still grimmer, the idea has excited the interest of the dread Guarda Finanza, or tax police. Moral: in cross-cultural dealings, the wise man avoids silly jokes and silly bets.

Look out for Owais Shah.
We did.

Owais has been collecting accolades - Man of the series, Junior Sportsman of the Year - since he started playing for Middlesex at the age of 11.
Sadly however, Owais could not tour Pakistan with the NatWest England Under 19 side because of his elevation to the A side, topscoring with 79. Oh well, our loss is your gain.

NatWest
More than just a bank

Heptathlete can kick-start Britain's medal drive in world championships

Lewis plotting seven steps to heaven

From David Powell
athletics correspondent
in Athens

Lewis, bronze medal-winner at the Atlanta Olympics, hopes for richer pickings in Athens. Photograph: Gary M Prior/Allsport

DENISE LEWIS, the only British woman to win a medal at the Atlanta Olympic Games last year, could not be more confident that she will set the tone for a successful Great Britain team performance at the world championships here. In fact, she has had a celebration already.

Not a big celebration, just a short one, on her own, in her hotel room in Crete, where she spent ten days fine-tuning her preparation for the heptathlon, which begins tomorrow. It was Wednesday evening and Lewis had just come in from her last serious workout. The hard training over, she reflected on a build-up that had been "as near perfect as possible". For a moment, she lost control.

"I was really elated," Lewis said. "I got back to my room and was jumping up and down thinking: 'Yes. I think I'm ready.' I had a little celebration." One lager, a rare treat. "I am in good shape, my head is right," she said.

Lewis, 24, will be the first of Britain's five individual event gold medal hopes to know her fate, on Monday evening. Steve Backley, Kelly Holmes and Iwan Thomas follow on Tuesday, Jonathan Edwards on Friday. Since winning the bronze medal in Atlanta, Lewis has improved her British record and is second, to Sabine Braun, from Germany, in the 1997 rankings.

If there had been an award for recovery of the Olympics, Lewis would have won it. Sixth after the first day, it seemed that every time she tried to dial into her ability, the phone was off the hook. Worse followed as, in the long jump, the first event of the second day, she was way below her best and slipped back to eighth.

"I was in tears and thinking of pulling out," Lewis said. Had Darrell Bunn, her coach, not been able to fight back his tears — "I could have cried easily but, as a coach, you cannot afford to show your emotions," Bunn said — she most probably would have.

Bunn's words then have a ring to them now: "It would be very easy to walk away and say: 'She has blown out.' She has to hold her head up for the final two events, go out there and compete. It is important for the future." She did and it was.

After salvaging a medal from that harrowing experience, Lewis competes here knowing that she has margin for error. Her first day is the weaker and the pressure, she said, would be on her opponents if she was right up there overnight. If not? "I fancy my chances regardless," she said.

In the absence of Ghada Shouaa, from Syria, the injured Olympic champion, Natalya Sazanovich, from Belarus, the Olympic runner-up, is perhaps the other main contender. However, Lewis beat her by nearly 300 points in Gotzis in June. "I still have not had that magical heptathlon yet, where everything goes right," Lewis said. Then she talks through the two days ahead.

First event (100 metres hurdles, personal best: 13.18sec): "To get off to a good start is of paramount importance. It sets you up."

Second event (high jump, 1.84 metres): "A more delicate event, needing controlled aggression, it comes in marked contrast to the hurdles. It is about rhythm of approach and finesse over the bar."

Third event (shot putt, 14.36 metres): "The shot is a difficult one for me. It used to be a weak event for me, but I am slowly getting used to it. I was doing the shot every day for a week recently to work on the details. I want to go in knowing my worst event is going to be well above average."

Fourth event (200 metres, 24.10sec): "A relief after the shot. It is about power and, hopefully, the end of a good first day."

Fifth event (long jump, 6.67 metres): "You start stiff, after the first day, but you have to override that and convince yourself you are strong. It is a good event for me."

Sixth event (javelin, 56.50 metres): "A lot of heptathletes have difficulty with the javelin. Some do not spend the time on it because it is easy to get injured. I have a problem shoulder — that is no secret — and I will probably throw with it strapped. It is a case of bruting it and hoping it is going to fly."

Seventh event (800 metres, 2min 16.70sec): "You have to put your heart and soul on the line, which might make the difference between the gold, silver, or bronze medal. If it means I have to go through a Kelly Holmes impression to win, I will do that."

Boldon boasts of savaging world record

From David Powell

THERE used to be agreement among sprinters that you cannot predict a world record. Only last year Michael Johnson, despite performance pointers in that direction, utterly refused to speculate. Now, it seems, you cannot stop some of them.

While Johnson has been even less forthcoming this week, dodging media headlights here like a scared bunny, the world's leading 100 metres runners have been full of world record rabbit. With the first highlights of the sixth world championships looming tomorrow, in the shape of the two 100 metres finals, we were told yesterday to stand by for a world record in the men's race.

Ato Boldon and Maurice Greene, respectively from Trinidad and the United States, lead the world rankings this year with 9.89 seconds and 9.90. They are, prospectively, the Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell of the late Nineties, two men who train together, under one coach, and who set world records. Except that Lewis and Burrell were gentle on the world record. Boldon and Greene seek to savage it.

"I think Maurice and I are going to give the spectators something to shout about, perhaps even a time around nine point seven," Boldon said.

Even if he meant 9.79 that would be a reduction of 0.05 seconds in the world record, the biggest improvement for nearly 30 years.

Boldon, who came to prominence when he won the 100 and 200 metres at the 1992 world junior championships, still runs both events. He was third in both at the Atlanta Olympic Games and leads the 1997 rankings in both. When Johnson ran 19.32 seconds for the 200 metres, slicing 0.34 seconds off the world record, it was regarded as Beamonesque. Boldon appears not to agree.

"I think I can run 19.30 seconds," Boldon said. He and Greene are coached by John Smith who, according to Boldon, "believes the 100 world record should be around 9.74 to complement what Johnson has done in the 200 and Butch Reynolds in the 400 ... the 100 record is soft."

Boldon notes Caribbean sprint tradition: Lennox Miller and Don Quarrie, from Jamaica, and Haseley Crawford, from Trinidad. "I feel like the torch has been passed to me," Boldon said. "The question is: 'What am I going to do with it?'"

Donovan Bailey, a Jamaican-born Canadian, is the defending world champion, Olympic champion and world record holder, with 9.84 seconds. "With all respect to Donovan, we need to be running faster." And Greene? What did he think? "I believe I am in great form and ready for a world record."

It seems ancient Greek history now that Bailey was voicing an opinion in June that he would improve his world record this season. All the ingredients seem to be there, and let us not forget Frankie Fredericks. He was second to Bailey at the Olympics in 9.89 seconds.

These championships see a return to Seiko timing after Swatch was used at the Olympics. According to Lennart Julin, a Swedish statistical analyst, Bailey's time in Atlanta would have been 9.81 seconds if the 1995 world championship blocks had been used. Julin's study revealed that all five men and all four women who reached the finals in both meets reacted slower in Atlanta.

In Gothenburg, rather than the gun's report travelling through the air, the firearm made no sound. Instead an artificial report came out of all the blocks the moment the gun was fired. Julin notes that the speed of sound through air is such that, between the source of sound and the runner, another 0.01sec is added to the reaction time and finishing time. The further away the starter, the longer the delay. In Atlanta, the starter stood on the infield, some 15 metres up the track, Julin noted.

Merlene Ottey, of Jamaica, is one of the favourites for the women's sprint title despite being 37.

Boldon: carrying torch

Ottey: a favourite

PROGRAMME

All times BST

TODAY: 06.00: Men's hammer qualifying group A. *06.10: Women's 400m first round* 06.20: Women's triple jump qualifying. 06.50: Men's shot qualifying 07.00: Women's 1,500m first round 07.25: Men's hammer qualifying group B 07.30: Women's 100m first round 08.15: Men's 100m first round 16.00: Men's 400m hurdles first round 16.40: Women's 100m second round. 17.05: Men's 20km walk final (start) 17.10: Men's shot final 17.20: Men's 100m second round 17.40: Women's 400m second round 18.25: Men's 20km walk final (end) 18.50: Women's 10,000m first round

TOMORROW: 06.00: Women's heptathlon 100m hurdles 06.10: Men's javelin qualifying group A. 06.20: Men's long jump qualifying 06.40: Men's 3,000m steeplechase first round 07.00: Heptathlon high jump. 07.25: Men's 400m first round. 07.40: Men's javelin qualifying group B 15.30: Men's hammer final 16.00: Men's 400m second round 16.25: Women's 100m semi-finals 16.45: Men's 100m semi-finals 17.00: Heptathlon shot. 17.05: Women's 400m semi-finals. 17.20: Men's 1,500m first round 18.45: Women's 1,500m semi-finals 19.15: Men's 400m *hurdles semi-finals 19.40: Heptathlon* 200m 20.00: Women's 100m final. 20.15: Men's 100m final 20.25: Men's 10,000m first round

FORM GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S EVENTS IN ATHENS

Men

100m

RECORDS: World: 9.84sec D Bailey (Can) 1996 Championship: 9 86 C Lewis (US) 1991 UK: 9 87 L Christie 1993.

1997 BEST: 9 89 A Boldon (Trin), 9.90 M Greene (US); 9 91 F Fredericks (Nam) British: 10.17 I Mackie; 10.22 M Devonish; 10.24 D Campbell

400m

RECORDS: World: 43.29sec H Reynolds (US) 1988. Championship: 43.39 M Johnson (US) 1995 UK: 44 36 I Thomas 1997

1997 BEST: 43 75 Johnson; 44 36 Thomas; 44 49 R Martin (Jam). Other British: 44.70 M Richardson; 45 02 J Baulch

1,500m

RECORDS: World: 3min 27 37sec N Morceli (Alg) 1993 Championship: 3.32.84 Morceli 1991 UK: 3:29.67 S Cram 1985.

1997 BEST: 3:29 30 H El Guerrouj (Mor), 3 30 13 L Rotich (Ken): 3:30 44 J Kibowen (Ken). British: 3 33 82 J Mayock, 3 36 20 K McKay: 3:36.36 M Yates.

10,000m

RECORDS: World: 26min 31.32sec H Gebrselassie (Eth) 1997 Championship: 27:12.95 Gebrselassie 1995. UK: 27:23 06 E Martin 1988.

1997 BEST: 26 31 32 Gebrselassie; 27·17.09 M Mourhit (Bel); 27:25.01 A Mezgebu (Eth)

3,000m steeplechase

RECORDS: World: 7min 59 18sec M Kiptanui (Ken) 1995 Championship: 8·04.16 Kiptanui 1995 UK: 8 07 96 M Rowland 1988.

1997 BEST: 8·01 80 Kiptanui, 8:02.77 W Boit (Ken); 8·03 51 B Barmasai (Ken). British: 8·35.03 R Hough.

400m hurdles

RECORDS: World: 46.78sec K Young (US) 1992 Championship: 47.18 Young 1993 UK: 47.82 K Akabusi 1992.

1997 BEST: 47.77 B Bronson (US); 47 97 L Herbert (SA): 48 00 D Adkins (US). British: 49 69 C Rawlinson; 50 02 G Jennings.

Long jump

RECORDS: World: 8.95m M Powell (US) 1991 Championship: 8 95 Powell 1991. UK: 8.23 L Davies 1968.

1997 BEST: 8.63 I Pedroso (Cuba), 8.49 E Walder (US): 8.46 J Greene (US).

Shot

RECORDS: World: 23 12m R Barnes (US) 1990. Championship: 22.23m W Gunthor (Switz) 1987 UK: 21.68m G Capes 1980

1997 BEST: 22.03 Barnes; 21 78 K Toth (US), 21.68 J Godina (US). British: 19.54 S Pickering, 19.42 M Proctor.

Hammer

RECORDS: World: 86 74m Y Sedykh (Russ) 1986. Championship: 83 06 S Litvinov (Russ) 1987. UK: 77 54 M Girvan 1984

1997 BEST: 83.04 H Weis (Ger), 82.90 B Kiss (Hun); 82.66 A Abduvalyev (Tajikistan). British: 73.88 D Smith.

Javelin

RECORDS: World: 98 48m J Zelezny (Cz) 1996 Championship: 90.12 Zelezny 1995 UK: 91 46 S Backley 1992

1997 BEST: 94 02 Zelezny; 90 44 B Henry (Ger); 89 22 K Gatsioudis (Gr) British: 89 02 Backley; 85.42 M Hill; 78.64 N Nieland

20km walk

RECORDS: World: 1hr 18min 04sec B Lingtang (China) 1994 Championship: 1·19·37 M Damilano (It) 1991 UK: 1·22·03 I McCombie 1986.

1997 BEST: 1·18.24 J Perez (Ecu); 1·18:27 D Garcia (Mex); 1 18.30 I Markov (Russ).

Women

100m

RECORDS: World: 10.49sec F Griffith-Joyner (US) 1988. Championship: 10 82 G Devers (US) 1993. UK: 11.10 K Cook 1981.

1997 BEST: 10.90 M Jones (US): 10.96 M Ottey (Jam): 11.03 C Arron (Fr) British: 11.46 S Jacobs: 11.53 M Richardson.

400m

RECORDS: World: 47 60sec M Koch (E Ger) 1985 Championship: 47.99 J Kratochvilova (Cz) 1983. UK: 49 43 K Cook 1984.

1997 BEST: 49 39 C Freeman (Aus); 49.40 J Miles-Clark (US); 49.79 C Opara (Nigeria). British: 50.85 A Curbishley; 50 87 D Fraser

1,500m

RECORDS: World: 3min 50.46sec Qu Yunxia (China) 1993. Championship: 3·58.56 T Samolenko (Russ) 1987. UK: 3·58.07 K Holmes 1997.

1997 BEST: 3.58.07 Holmes; 4:03.42 R Jacobs (US), 4.03.50 S Hamilton (US). Other British: 4 07 28 J Pavey.

10,000m

RECORDS: World: 29min 31 78sec Wang Junxia (China) 1993. Championship: 30:49.30 Wang 1993 UK: 30:57 07 E McColgan 1991.

1997 BEST: 31:14.51 J Vaquero (Sp): 31:28.12 N Carroll (NZ): 31:30 89 A Peters (US)

Triple jump

RECORDS: World: 15.50m I Kravets (Ukr) 1995. Championship: 15.50 Kravets 1995 UK: 14 94 A Hansen 1997.

1997 BEST: 15.14 R Mateescu (Rom); 14.94 Hansen; 14.76 G Sproge (Lat). Other British: 13 76 M Griffith.

Heptathlon

RECORDS: World: 7,291pts J Joyner-Kersee (US) 1988. Championship: 7,128 Joyner-Kersee 1987 UK: 6,736 D Lewis 1997.

1997 BEST: 6,787 S Braun (Ger); 6,736 Lewis; 6,465 K Blair (US).

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: Live 5.55-9.30am; Highlights in Grandstand from 12.15pm. BBC2: Live 7.10-8.15pm. Tomorrow: BBC1: Live 6.30-8.30am: Live 7.10-8.05pm. BBC2: Highlights in Sunday Grandstand from 12pm; Live 8.05-9.45pm.

Stan Greenberg

IN BRIEF

Ivanisevic suffers surprise defeat

GORAN IVANISEVIC, the No 2 seed, and Thomas Muster, seeded No 3, were eliminated in the third round of the Canadian Open tennis tournament, in Montreal. Ivanisevic, of Croatia, lost 7-6, 6-2 to Chris Woodruff, of the United States, while Fabrice Santoro, of France, beat Muster, of Austria, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

At the Toshiba Classic, in Carlsbad, California, Conchita Martinez, of Spain, conceded only one game against Helena Sukova, of the Czech Republic, to set up a quarter-final clash with Martina Hingis, the No 1 seed from Switzerland. Monica Seles, of the United States, beat Natasha Zvereva, of Belarus, 6-1, 6-3 to reach the semi-finals.

McDowall denies Duff

BOWLS: Hugh Duff, the world indoor champion, was beaten in the last 16 of the LCL Pils Scottish singles championship, at Ayr Northfield, yesterday. The Cumbernauld player, bidding for his first win in the event, went down 20-21 to Alistair McDowall, from Kirkcolm. David Gourlay, the man Duff succeeded as world champion, beat Graham Borland to reach the quarter-finals.

Moyà books place

TENNIS: Carlos Moyà and Felix Mantilla, the two Spanish clay-court specialists ranked No 10 and No 11 in the world respectively, have confirmed their entry for the Samsung Open, in Bournemouth, next month. Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, is also a definite starter. He reached the quarter-finals at the event last year.

Fogarty riding high

MOTORCYCLING: Carl Fogarty yesterday set out to harness the support of a fanatical Brands Hatch crowd to help him to defend a four-point lead in the world superbike championship. Fogarty, 31, from Blackburn, finished second in the first official practice for the race tomorrow, behind Pierfrancesco Chili, on a Ducati.

EQUESTRIANISM: COSMOPOLITAN REVELS IN THE LACK OF PRESSURE

Fox-Pitt makes profitable move

By Jenny MacArthur

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Young supporters take in the dressage action

WILLIAM FOX-PITT, who decided to enter Cosmopolitan, his Olympic horse, in the advanced section at the Doubleprint British Horse Trials Championships at Gatcombe Park, rather than subject him to the pressure of the more-demanding British Open, is in the lead at the end of the dressage phase of Advanced One yesterday.

Fox-Pitt, 28, who is also leading the Intermediate Championships on Lucy Challis's Mr Beluga, rode an accurate, stylish test on the ten-year-old gelding to finish two points ahead of David O'Connor, of the United States, on his Badminton winner, Custom Made. Both horses are capable of winning the British Open, but are being saved for the Open European Championships, at Burghley, in September.

Having won the British Open on Chaka two years ago, Fox-Pitt is well aware of the pressure to which horses are subjected as they gallop against the clock. Since finishing third at Badminton in May, Cosmopolitan — owned jointly by Mrs Frank Andrews and Hackett — has been carefully prepared for Burghley. "I knew that if I entered him for the Open and was in with a shout on Sunday I might be tempted to go for it," Fox-Pitt said. He may even withdraw him from the advanced section — a decision that he will take this morning after walking the course.

O'Connor, who has three horses shortlisted for the United States team, was also unwilling to risk Custom Made in the bigger class. "He can get very aggressive in a competition so I decided to take him quietly," O'Connor said of the Irish-bred gelding, whose numerous successes include the 1995 Lexington Three-Day-Event. An accomplished dressage rider, O'Connor, 35, who won a team silver medal at the Atlanta Olympic Games on Giltedge, produced an enviably fluent, obedient test yesterday.

Daisy Dick, the daughter of Dave Dick, the winning jockey in the 1956 Grand National, finished third on Headley Bravo — but promptly announced her withdrawal from the cross country. Headley Bravo, 14, is longlisted for the British team after finishing seventh at Badminton and Dick intends to save him for the Scottish Championships, at Thirlestane, in two weeks — where the final trial for the European Championships is taking place.

Today is the dressage phase of the British Open in which Mary King, with three on-form horses — King William, Star Appeal and King Solomon — starts as favourite. O'Connor also has a leading contender in Lightfoot, the horse on which he was fifth in Kentucky in April and which he describes as 'magic' across country.

He will need to be if he is to succeed over Mark Phillips's demanding cross-country course. After an unusually lenient track last year, Captain Phillips has "raised it a notch" this time.

RESULTS: Advanced Section: 1, Cosmopolitan II (W Fox-Pitt, GB) 29; 2, Custom Made (D O'Connor, US) 31; 3, Headley Bravo (D Dick, GB) 33. British intermediate championship: 1, Mr Beluga (W Fox-Pitt) 32; 2, Eudoxus (E Watson) 34; 3 equal, Wat Tyler (P Lyon) and Roundwood (C Bathe) 35

HOCKEY

England squander winning chances

From a Correspondent in Harare

ENGLAND paid the price for failing to make the most of their chances when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Canada in their opening match of the World Cup qualifying tournament in the Magamba stadium here yesterday.

From the first minute, when Mandy Nicholls fired a shot against the upright, until the last, England dominated but were unable to make the pressure pay.

After a bright start, England went ahead in the fifteenth minute when Mandy Davies found Jane Sixsmith wide on the right. Sixsmith beat two defenders and slipped the ball to Jane Smith, who scored past Sarah Forbes.

After England spurned several more opportunities, Canada equalised a minute after the break when Nicole Colaco hit a shot from the edge of the circle that rebounded off the crossbar and over the line.

Sixsmith could have put England ahead a minute later when she broke through, but Forbes was quickly off her line to eliminate the danger. Sixsmith was involved again when she set up Purdy Miller, who failed to capitalise.

As England surged forward in the closing stages, they earned six penalty corners in a five-minute spell, but the Canadian defence held firm.

A 67th-minute penalty corner strike by the defender, Sandeep Kaur, helped India open their campaign on a winning note with a 1-0 victory over Ireland.

But if the Irish had found the net from a flurry of first-half penalty corners, along with a couple of excellent scoring chances, they could have wrapped up the match before the interval.

England meet India today, Ireland face South Africa and Scotland play Zimbabwe in their opening match in the tournament.

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GOLF: ENGLISHMAN JOINS PACK OF STRUGGLERS HUNTING FOR TITLE SCRAPS

Baker's revival driven by fear

FROM MEL WEBB IN MALMÖ

ANDREW REDINGTON / ALLSPORT

Baker plays out of a bunker at the 9th on the way to a 66 and a share of the lead after the second round yesterday

THERE was a gathering of kindred spirits in the thick of things at the Volvo Scandinavian Masters yesterday and the talk among them was not the Ryder Cup, but avoiding the wooden spoon. This is turning into a strange tournament, and one of the odder features of it is that it has been taken over by men whose records this season need to improve to be awful.

At the end of a long, warm day at Barsebäck near here, eight players shared the lead on 136, eight under par. Two of them have won tournaments this season and one of them is pushing for a place in the Europe Ryder Cup team.

A further one is in a comfortable if not particularly distinguished position on the PGA European Tour order of merit, but the other five uneasily occupy places deep in the bilges of the good ship *Money List*. Before this week most of them could not have contemplated winning a raffle, let alone a golf tournament, if only for the fact that they could hardly have afforded to buy a ticket.

With such luminaries as Colin Montgomerie and José Maria Olazábal struggling to beat par for the tournament, and Ian Woosnam, a shot worse, missing the cut, the biggest name on the leaderboard was Miles Tunnicliff, but only because his moniker has ten letters.

Of the leading octet, it was no great surprise to see Michael Jonzon (tournament winner) and Ignacio Garrido (tournament winner, Ryder Cup hopeful) up there, while Joakim Haeggman (67th in the order of merit) at least knows how to be in contention. Alongside them were José Rivero (169th), Tunnicliff (135th), Peter Baker (134th), Gary Evans (123rd) and Domingo Hospital (112th). Hardly CVs to stir the blood and their owners were willing to admit it.

"My main thought is keeping my card," Baker said after his 66. "It's been another disastrous year." Evans moaned after a second 68. Some of them have been up there before, but it was so long ago that they have probably forgotten what it is like.

The man with most to gain is undoubtedly Garrido. He is sixteenth in the Ryder Cup qualifying list and, if he were to win on Sunday, he would have a place and no argument. Padraig Harrington, eleventh in the table and a shot behind, can achieve the same ambition with victory. Jesper Parnevik can deepen the red on the faces of certain folk at Tour headquarters at Wentworth, who continue to regard him as a non-person in Ryder Cup terms. For the others, though, the weekend is a means of salvation, not glory.

Meanwhile, Montgomerie was long of face after his 71 had left him on one under par, the most that could be said for which was that it kept him in competitive action for the last two days. Montgomerie, who made only four birdies in 36 holes, is still fighting a punishing hook after complaining early in the week that he had found himself simply hitting the ball too hard. "It's gone beyond that now," he said before trooping off to put himself through the masochistic experience of an afternoon's work on the driving range.

Olazábal, too, was in punishing mood after rendering a spectator unconscious in the course of a double-bogey seven at the 12th. After hitting his drive into trees, he was left with a 78-yard pitch that struck the unsuspecting man full on the temple. "It was not nice to hit him," Olazábal said. The victim, it is understood, was not too keen on it, either.

DETAILS

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS: *136:* J Rivero (Sp) 66, 70; P Baker 70, 66; G Evans 68, 68; I Garrido (Sp) 67, 69; D Hospital (Sp) 68, 68; M Tunnicliff 68, 68; M Jonzon (Swe) 69, 67; J Haeggman (Swe) 67, 69. 137: V Phillips 70, 67; P Harrington 66, 71. 138: R Rafferty 70, 68; J Parnevik (Swe) 70, 68. 139: M James 70, 69; S Allan (Aus) 72, 67; P Quirici (Switz) 69, 70; D Robertson 71, 68; R Karlsson (Swe) 68, 71; M Olander (Swe) 70, 69; S Field 69, 70; S Grappasonni (It) 68, 71. 140: A Hunter 70, 70; M Mouland 68, 72; A Gillner (Swe) 72, 68; I Pyman 70, 70; M Hallberg (Swe) 72, 68; D Edlund (Swe) 70, 70; P McGinley 71, 69; D Clarke 69, 71; C Rocca (It) 65, 75.

Hackney leads the pursuit

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN OAKVILLE, ONTARIO

THE du Maurier Classic is a low-key event for a major championship, but the apathy of the Canadians off the course was not matched by the players' performance on it as the second round at Glen Abbey yesterday developed into a fascinating contest. The Americans were in front but there were a host of Europeans, including a British contingent of Lisa Hackney, Kathryn Marshall, Laura Davies, the defending champion, and Helen Dobson, on their trail.

Kelly Robbins, who has won twice this season and is third on the United States money-list, was eight under par after 15 holes and leading by two shots from her fellow Americans, Rosie Jones, Juli Inkster and Colleen Walker.

Marshall, who had played two holes, was in a sizeable group on five under. Hackney, who dropped a shot at her last hole, was on 142, four under par, after a 69. Davies was on 143 after a 70 that was spoilt by a bogey at her last hole. Dobson, recovered from a broken finger, was also on 143. Her 69 included four birdies and an eagle three, at the 18th, her ninth hole, where she hit a four-iron to 20 feet.

Hackney, the major championship specialist (she was fifth at the Nabisco Dinah Shore and the US Women's Open), played the tricky outward nine first and made it look easy, going out in 33, four under par. She moved to five under par with a chip to three feet for a birdie four at the 1st.

Jones, partnering Davies, was putting so well that even the Englishwoman started to find some touch on the greens. On a breezy day that began fine and sunny but became cloudy, they started at the 10th and Davies's cause looked bleak when she dropped shots at the 12th and 13th, to be two over par, six shots behind Jones and well adrift of the lead.

The holes are part of the Abbey's version of the valley of death, or at least its crucible of uncertainty. Davies was still two over when she climbed out of the valley, after an immaculate par three at the 15th, and it was as though she had been released from a dungeon. She played the next four holes in five under par, dropped a shot at the 2nd, but came back with birdies at the 4th and 5th.

At the 16th, 466 yards, Davies hit a eight-iron to 12 inches for the eagle three that started her roll. She eased home an uphill 15-footer for a birdie three at the 17th, hit a wedge to 12 feet after a huge drive at the 494-yard 18th and two-putted for another birdie. At the 1st, another par five, she got up and down from a bunker for another four.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 140: R Jones 69, 71. 141: P Hammel 69, 72. 142: L Hackney (GB) 73, 69; H Stacy 69, 73. 143: H Dobson (GB) 74, 69; M Dunn 69, 74; M McGeorge 72, 71; W Ward 72, 71; L Davies (GB) 73, 70; V Fergon 68, 75. 144: D Reid (GB) 73, 71; N Bowen 73, 71. 145: H Alfredsson (Swe) 75, 70; K Peterson-Parker 71, 74; J Gallagher-Smith 76, 69. 146: M Nause 72, 74. 147: J Briles-Hinton 77, 70; L Walters (Can) 76, 71; N Scranton 77, 70. 148: P Lucio 70, 78. 149: S Turner 75, 74; J Morley (GB) 77, 72. 150: C H Koch (Swe) 75, 75. 151: C Nilsmark (Swe) 77, 74. 153: A-M Palli (Fr) 76, 77

Rowe establishes his matchplay credentials

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PHILIP ROWE made the long journey from Cornwall to Hoylake this week determined to put the record straight. It has been suggested that after he won only one of his six matches for England in the European Boys Team Championships, in Slovenia, last month that he did not have the nerve for matchplay.

Those taking that line obviously did not know much about the 18-year-old, who will meet Aran Wainwright, from Pontefract, in the 36-hole final of the English Amateur Championship, at Royal Liverpool, today.

During his 2 and 1 semi-final victory yesterday, against Kenneth Ferrie, the British Boys champion, he was only behind once, when he failed to get up-and-down from a bunker at the par-four 2nd. Wainwright overcame Matthew Blackley 3 and 2 in the other semi-final.

Craig Hislop, of Powfoot, goes into the 36-hole final of the J&B Scottish Amateur Championship, at Carnoustie, today as a warm favourite to become the first man to win all three national titles.

The 24-year-old from the Solway Firth won the Scottish boys' title in 1991 and the youth championship in 1993. Now, only the Bellshill player, 21-year-old Sam Cairns, stands between Hislop and a notable hat-trick.

Hislop used his strength and superior class to beat Tom McLevy, of Blairgowrie, 2 and 1 and Sandy Twynholm 3 and 1 to reach the last stage for the first time.

Mark Pilkington, 19, from Pwllheli, and Jamie Donaldson, 21, the Macclesfield-based international, will contest the 36-hole final of the Welsh Amateur Championship, at Pyle and Kenfig, Porthcawl, today. They both recorded 3 and 2 victories yesterday.

FOOTBALL

Problem of Scotland's reliance on foreign aid

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

HOW long will Lorenzo Amoruso, the Rangers centre back, take to recover from his operation? If Henrik Larsson is as good as Celtic believe, why is he not a regular member of the Sweden team? What, at 32, can Jean-Marc Adjovi-Boco bring to the Hibernian side? Will Jerome Vareille give Kilmarnock new possibilities in attack?

Foreign players seem to prowl through most of the questions asked when supporters, with a new season beginning today, are at their most inquisitive and hopeful. Scottish football has always tended to be hospitable to the continental talents who fetch up in these parts.

The Poles who were stationed in Scotland during the Second World War, and continued to play there afterwards, were thought dashing. In the 1960s, a batch of Scandinavians proved invigorating. To a youngster in the 1970s, Zoltan Varga, a Hungarian who concentrated on his own stretching exercises and never troubled to kick the ball during Aberdeen's prematch warm-up, epitomised aloof sophistication.

The game was enhanced by such men but, now, circumstances have changed. Instead of arriving purely to confer glamour, the overseas signings also come to fill the humdrum positions that would once have been occupied by locals. There is no cause to revile them, they are entitled to be in Scotland and possess a moral right to seek the best life that their gifts can earn them.

Only a curmudgeon, for example, will resent the presence of Olafur Gottskalksson. A 29-year-old Icelander who previously had to subsidise his football with menial jobs now has the chance to be a full-time player, for Hibernian. The sight of such men in the Bell's Scottish League is not objectionable, but the need for them is alarming.

Gottskalksson will play against Celtic tomorrow because Jim Duffy, the manager at Easter Road, could find no available Scot to replace Jim Leighton once the goalkeeper had decided to move to Aberdeen. The aspirations of Rangers, who begin their domestic programme against Heart of Midlothian on Monday, are far greater than those of Hibernian, but the same principle was at work when £14 million was used solely for the purchase of foreign players this summer.

At the beginning of August, it is traditional to ask who can stop Rangers from taking the title again, yet, in many parts of the land, this whole line of inquiry must seem obtuse. Apart from the occasional blissful interlude, as when Aberdeen became the team of the 1980s, Scottish football is always dominated by one or other of the Old Firm.

Were Wim Jansen, the new Celtic coach, somehow to find a way of guiding his team ahead of Rangers, his achievement would be a matter of indifference at, say, Pittodrie, Tannadice, Easter Road and Tynecastle. Supporters there might dream of the day that their club becomes champions, but they also sacrifice their weekends in the simple hope of watching agreeable football.

Jansen: new arrival

They are too often disappointed. The prising from Ibrox of the league championship trophy might testify to the survival of a competitive instinct, but good health must be manifested in other respects as well. Although Scottish football has survived long periods of ascendancy by Celtic or Rangers, men of oustanding merit also used to be found at other clubs.

Their numbers have dwindled. For the Old Firm, the need for youth development is not pressing, since wealth can be used to import appropriate players. Elsewhere, however, the ability to rear formidable footballers is precious. At Aberdeen or Dundee United, money might be employed to plug gaps, but the standards of the 1980s can only return when the knack for grooming raw talent is recovered.

In the wake of the Bosman ruling, clubs have grown sceptical over the wisdom of coaching youngsters. Why raise players simply to lose them, without compensation, when their contracts run out? That, however, is too bleak a view so long as large transfer fees continue to be paid for the best performers. The business has more pitfalls now, but the economics might yet make sense.

It should remain possible to emulate a club such as Auxerre that can nurture youngsters and perform honourably in the Champions' League. In Scotland, though, promise is always in jeopardy. Stephen Glass, of Aberdeen, suffered a slump in form last season; Kevin Harper, 21, is yet to prove that he can pose an adult threat in the Hibernian attack; Simon Donnelly, 22, struggles simply to play regularly for Celtic.

This season, the future of these men ought to concern us more than the fortunes of the Old Firm, for if all of them fail to grow it will be confirmation that Scottish football truly is a polluted landscape.

Arsenal cast their Net

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

FOR football folk, the Net is fast coming to mean much more than merely the white thing that hangs behind the goalposts; yesterday, Arsenal became the latest in a growing line of clubs to launch an official website on the Internet.

Through their computers, visitors to the AFC Internet site will be able to receive updated club information, send e-mail messages to players, take a virtual tour of Highbury and order from an on-line Arsenal club shop; an exhaustive database of players and matches will settle any pub argument. "We hope we've encompassed everything for the Arsenal fan," Jeremy Kerner, one of the designers, said.

The importance attached by Arsenal to this aspect of football club marketing can be judged by the attendance at the launch of Arsène Wenger, the team manager. Did he use the Internet? "No," he confessed. "It's very important that we have a link with the supporters. But I have one concern; how far can you go without destroying a little of the fascination?"

Arsenal will also be the first FA Carling Premiership club to act as Internet providers, at a cost to subscribers of £13 per month, but David Dein, the club's managing director, does not see the on-line venture as a source of profit. "It is not designed to make money," he said. "It is purely an information service for the fans. It cost the club over £100,000 of investment."

There is already a large amount of Gunners-related material on the Internet, both in the Arsenal sections of the official Sky Sports and Carling websites, and in a number of other unofficial locations, with such intriguing names as "Cybury Gooners" and "Wengerland".

"Most clubs have sites, but many are unofficial, or linked to fanzines," Charlie Hirst, who writes a football website column for *Total Football* magazine, said. "Anyone can make one; the language is pretty simple."

More than half of the 20 Premiership clubs, and many in the Nationwide League, have official websites. Those about to hit the net include Liverpool, whose official site should be online "within three months".

The most popular is Manchester United's, regularly accessed from 120 countries. "The chat forum alone had 109,000 visits last week," Simon Howson-Green, head of Sky Internet, its creators, said. "The best ever was over 200,000 visits in one week, when Eric Cantona left. It is a developing area with huge potential. I think you'll see more information appearing on the website before anywhere else."

And the World Wide Web may offer an advantage for the computer-literate manager in these post-Bosman days: one site lists all out-of-contract players throughout Europe. Arsène Wenger, please note.

AFC Internet: http://www.arsenal.co.uk

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 4 Toronto 2; Kansas City 3 Boston 2 (10inns); Milwaukee 2 Seattle 1; Anaheim 12 Chicago White Sox 14; Oakland 0 Baltimore 4 (11inns).
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 1 Atlanta 8; Montreal 9 San Diego 2; Philadelphia 2 St Louis 1 (10inns); Pittsburgh 4 Colorado 1; Chicago Cubs 1 Los Angeles 4.

BASKETBALL

MELBOURNE: World under-23 championships: United States bt Yugoslavia 95-75; Puerto Rico bt China 125-48; Lithuania bt New Zealand 66-45; Argentina bt South Korea 96-78; Spain bt Egypt 104-61; Turkey bt Australia 75-58

BOWLS

NORTHFIELD, Ayr: LCL Pils Scottish national championship: Singles: First round: N Devlin (Dalkeith) bt B Arnott (Bathgate) 21-11; R Henderson (Planefield) bt S Scotland (Alloa Co-op) 21-12; A McDowall (Kirkcolm) bt T Linton (Lockerbie) 21-5; H Duff (Cumbernauld) bt J McIntosh (Mearns) 21-6.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Third day of four: Usk: Surrey 430-6dec and 261-6 dec (J N Batty 105, N Shahid 50); Glamorgan 310-7 dec and 302 (M J Powell 99, I J Thomas 69). Surrey win by 79 runs. Final day of four: Ramsbottom: Durham 204 (D G C Ligertwood 73, O J Hughes 59; P M Ridgway 6-44) and 157-5 (S J Birtwistle 54); Lancashire 150 (S Lugsden 5-41). Match drawn. Final day of three: Folkestone: Warwickshire 341-7 dec (M D Edmond 143 not out, A Frost 52) and 79-0 dec (W G Khan 62 not out); Kent 85-3 dec and 146 (M A Sheikh 5-39, M A V Bell 5-40). Warwickshire win by 189 runs. Harrow CC: Hampshire 321-8 dec (G W White 126; T F Bloomfield 4-51) and second innings forfeit; Middlesex 19-1 dec and 109 (C Patel 4-28). Hampshire win by 193 runs. Hastings: Leicestershire 354-5 dec and 21-1 dec; Sussex 69-1 dec and 204. Leicestershire win by 108 runs. Marske-by-the-Sea: Somerset 318 and 229; Yorkshire 264 and 285-2 (R A Kettleborough 94 not out, M J Wood 88, G M Hamilton 51 not out). Yorkshire win by eight wickets.

CYCLING

TOUR OF PORTUGAL: Fourth stage (184.3km from Evora to Abrantes): 1, F Guidi (It) 4hr 01min 24sec; 2, C Barbosa (Por); 3, P Vetsch (Switz) same time; 4, M Lelli (It) at 5sec; 5, P Lanfranchi (It) same time. Leading overall positions: 1, Guidi 5:51.32; 2, Barbosa at 32sec; 3, W Belli (It) at 34sec; 4, Lelli at 43sec; 5, A Rodrigues (Por) same time.

DIVING

EDINBURGH: European junior championships: Boys: Youths: 3-metre springboard: 1, R Kornyliak (Russ) 376.45pts; 2, D Gomiak (Pol) 338.10; 3, B Aldridge (GB) 333.95. Girls: Youths: Highboard: 1, A Kiess (Ger) 259.65; 2, L Nemteanu (Rom) 240.30; 3, D Glodnova (Russ) 240.30. Junior: 1-metre springboard: 1, A Lindberg (Swe) 432.55; 2, D Kotzian (Ger) 432.55; 3, S Gbur (Ger) 402.45

FOOTBALL

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Southend United 1 Millwall 1; Burnley 1 Gremio 0; Norwegian XI 1 Liverpool 3 (in Oslo); Ashton United 3 Barrow 2; VS Rugby 1 Grimsby Town 4; Morecambe 2 Preston North End 3.
REYKJAVIK: European under-18 championship: Final: France 1 Portugal 0. Third-place play-off: Spain 2 Ireland 1.

GOLF

ROYAL LIVERPOOL GC: English Amateur Championship: Fifth round: M J Blackey (Hayling) bt R Duck (Northamptonshire Co) 6 and 5; S J Dyson (Sand Moor) bt M Carver (West Kent) 6 and 5; S P Webster (Ifield) bt S East (Fulford) 4 and 3; A Wainwright (Garforth) bt M Keeling (Burslem) 2 holes; K A Ferrie (Alnmouth) bt P Streeter (Belton Woods) 5 and 4; M C Reynard (Moseley) bt P D Williams (Denton) at 19th; R Finch (Hull) bt J Harris (Nevill) 2 and 1; P Rowe (West Cornwall) bt R M Roper (Catterick Garrison) 2 and 1. Quarter-finals: Blackey bt Dyson 1 hole; Wainwright bt Webster 3 and 1; Ferrie bt Reynard 5 and 4; Rowe bt Finch 1 hole. Semi-finals: Wainwright bt Blackey 3 and 2; Rowe bt Ferrie 2 and 1.
CARNOUSTIE: J & B Scottish Amateur Championship: Fifth round: T McLevy (Blairgowrie) bt B McDermott (Leven Thistle) at 20th; C Hislop (Powfoot) bt F McCarron (Stonehaven) 5 and 4; G Lowson (Crieff) bt C Kelly (St Andrews New) 5 and 3; S Twynholm (Westerhope) bt S Loughrey (Hayston) 3 and 2; S Cairns (Bellshill) bt W Taylor (Edzell) 2 and 1; A Weir (St Andrews) bt D Murphy (Thornton) 3 and 2; A Paton (Dunnikier Park) bt A Laurence (Baberton) 1 hole; G Fox (West Kilbride) bt S Home (Tulliallan) 5 and 4. Quarter-finals: Hislop bt McLevy 2 and 1; Twynholm bt Lowson 2 and 1; Cairns bt Weir 5 and 3; Paton bt Fox 1 hole. Semi-finals: Hislop bt Twynholm 3 and 1; Cairns bt Paton 4 and 3.
PYLE AND KENFIG: Welsh Amateur Championship: First round: J R Donaldson (Macclesfield) bt A A Delves (Padeswood and Buckley) 3 and 2; M R Davies (Pennard) bt O J Pughe (Oswestry) 2 and 1; D G Byles (Monmouthshire) bt H L James (Radyr) 3 and 2; M J Burton (West Wilts) bt M L Davies (Ferndown) at 19th; R W Price (Monmouthshire) bt I M Booth (Pyle and Kenfig) 2 and 1; A Smith (Rhondda) bt R Brookman (Creigiau) 2 and 1; G Austerberry (Radyr) bt C Platt (Wrexham) 2 holes; C Williams (Creigiau) bt K L Sullivan (Brynhill) at 19th; M Smith (Forest Hills) bt P Richards (Aberystwyth) 3 and 1; I Campbell (Newport) bt R A Williams (Conwy) 2 and 1; D M Stimson (Ashburnham) bt G S Rees (Southerndown) 3 and 2; M J Pilkington (Pwllheli) bt R A Emanuel (Cardigan) 5 and 4; J Powell (Hinckley) bt L Harpin (North Wales) 3 and 2; C M Rees (Ashburnham) bt Y Taylor (Brynhill) 2 and 1; C Rowe (Pontardawe) bt M L Griffiths (Woodlake Park) 3 and 2; N B Edwards (Whitchurch) bt J Pugh (Whitchurch) 3 and 2. Second round: Donaldson bt Davies 3 and 1; Burton bt Byles 5 and 4; Smith bt Price 2 and 1; Williams bt Austerberry 4 and 3; Campbell bt M Smith 3 and 2; Pilkington bt Stimpson 5 and 4; Rees bt Powell 3 and 1; Rowe bt Edwards 1 hole. Quarter-finals: Donaldson bt Burton 4 and 3; Smith bt Williams 3 and 1; Pilkington bt Campbell 4 and 3; Rees bt Rowe 1 hole. Semi-finals: Donaldson bt Smith 3 and 2; Pilkington bt Rees 3 and 2.
MILL RIDE, Ascot: Mastercard tour tournament: Leading final scores: 270: S Andrew (Clitheroe) 66, 70, 66, 68. 275: G Houston (Carden Park) 71, 72, 67, 65; J Langmead (Hele Park) 70, 72, 66, 67. 276: R Wragg (College Pines) 70, 69, 66, 71. 277: N Brown (Mid Herts) 67, 71, 71, 68. 278: P Wesselingh (Hawkstone Park) 70, 69, 72, 67. 279: M Stanford (Tracy Park) 71, 70, 68, 69; S Dodd (Barry) 71, 67, 70, 71. 281: J Cook (Leamington and County) 66, 69, 70, 75; S Griffiths (Wentworth) 72, 72, 67, 70.
KLASSIS: PGA Challenge Tour: Turkish Open: Leading first-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 65: B Dredge, P Golfdosson (Swe). 67: M Pendaries (Fr). 68: H Karlsson (Swe), A Carssimi (US), K Storgaard (Den), E Simsek (Ger). 69: J Giner (Sp), C Arenz (Ger), H Nystrom (Swe), J C Cambon (Fr), B Ingleby, D Bieri (Switz), S Lahary (Fr), W Bennett, G Owen, S Watson, L Jahn (Ger).
CASTLE ROCK, Colorado: Sprint International: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated: under modified Stableford rules): 15: L Mize. 14: P Mickelson. 12: D Stockton Jr. 11: S McCarron. 10: O Browne, B Faxon, D Hart, H Kase (Japan). 9: S Cink. 8: T Armour, N Lancaster, J Green, G Waite (NZ). 7: E Tryba, S Stricker. 6: R Fehr, C Stadler, R Freeman, T Smith. 5: R Goosen (SA), P Lonard (Aus), D Love, E Els (SA). British score: 0: N Faldo.

HOCKEY

HARARE: Women's World Cup qualifying tournament: Pool A: India 1 Ireland 0. Pool B: England 1 Canada 1

MODERN PENTATHLON

SOFIA: Women's world championship: Final placings: 1, E Suvorova (Russ) 5,240pts; 2, F Fares (It) 5,083; 3, L Grolichova (Cz) 5,061; 4, J Dolgacheva-Shubenok (Bela) 5,049; 5, P Boenisz (Pol) 5,020; 6, F Foghetty (It) 4,959; 7, A Giongo (It) 4,926; 8, J Dobrowska-Kowalewska (Pol) 4,891; 9, G Baschlakova (Bela) 4,886; 10, Z Voros (Hun) 4,871. British: 24, K Allenby 4,439; 27, K Houston 4,174. Teams: 1, Italy 14,968; 2, Russia 14,787; 3, Czech Republic 14,591; 4, Poland 14,474; 5, Hungary 13,254; 7, Great Britain.

RUGBY LEAGUE

World club championship

Pool B

Perth 30 Paris 12

Perth Reds: Tries: Fuller 2, Fleming, Matt Geyer, Ryan. Goals: Devine 4, Chapman. Paris Saint-Germain: Tries: Bergman. Marlon Goals: O'Connor 2. Att: 7,000.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Featherstone 18 Salford 33; Oldham 18 Hull 12. Postponed: Bradford v Leeds.
AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Newcastle Knights 12 Manly-Warringah 14.

SAILING

ADMIRAL'S CUP: First day (all results provisional and subject to protest). RYS Trophy: IMS class (big boats): First race: 1, Rubin XIV (Ger) 1hr 29min 31sec; 2, Corum Indulgence (GB) 1.30.38; 3, Flash Gordon 3 (US) 1:30.59; 4, Numbers (NZ) 1:31.14; 5, Madina Milano (It) 1:31.50; 6, Ragamuffin (Aus) 1:31.57; 7, Investor (Scandinavia) 1:33.23. Second race: 1, Flash Gordon 3 1:43.52; 2, Corum Indulgence 1:44.13; 3, Rubin XIV 1.44.29; 4, Numbers 1:44.44; 5, Ragamuffin 1:45.47; 6, Investor 1:48.20. Madina Milano (It) did not finish. ILC 40 Class: First race: 1, Pinta (Ger) 1:36.16; 2 equal, G'Net (Aus) and Mean Machine (NZ) 1:36.56; 4, MK Cafe (US) 1:37.10; 5, Fram XIV (Scandinavia) 1:37.25; 6, Brava Q8 (It) 1:37.31; 7, Easy Oars (GB) 1:37.57. Second race: 1, Pinta 1:50.42; 2, G'Net 1.51.25; 3, MK Cafe 1:52.42; 4, Mean Machine 1:54.17; 5, Easy Oars 1:54.26; 6, Brava Q8 1:54.42; 7, Fram XIV 1:55:16. Mumm 36 class: First race: 1, Breeze (It) 1:42.18; 2, Bradamante (GB) 1:43.19; 3, Thomas I Punkt (Ger) 1:43.27; 4, Jameson (US) 1:43.45; 5, Sea (Aus) 1:43.48; 6, Georgia Express 2 (NZ) 1.43.54. Mumm-a-Mia (Scandinavia) did not finish. Second race: 1, Sea; 2, Bradamante; 3, Thomas I Punkt; 4, Jameson; 5, Breeze. Georgia Express and Mumm-a-Mia did not start. Team positions after first day of competition: 1, Germany 21.25; 2, United States 28.75; 3, Great Britain 32.50; 4 equal, Australia and New Zealand 35.63; 6, Italy 41.25; 7, Scandinavia 52.50

SPEEDWAY

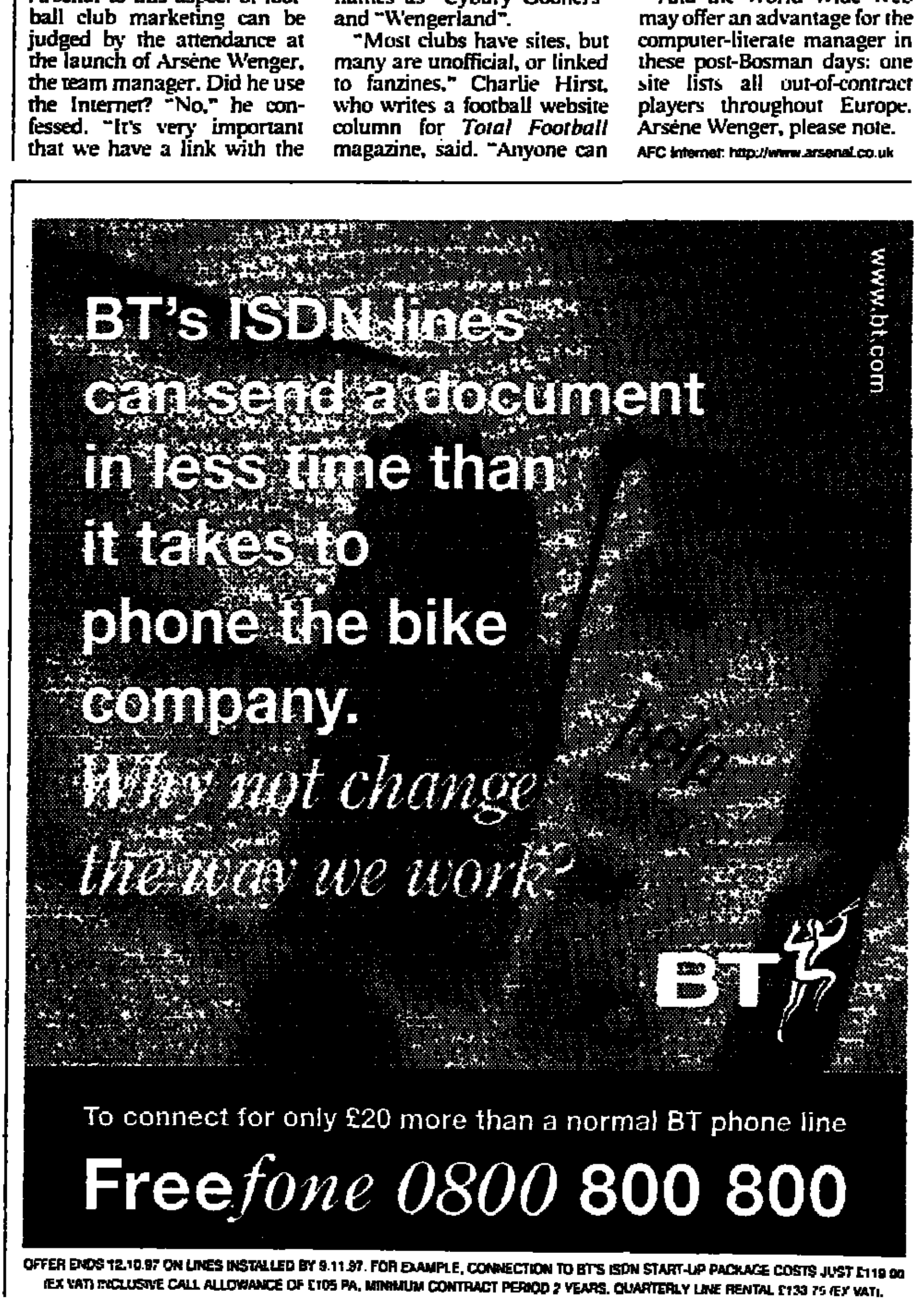
ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 39 Bradford 51. Postponed: Belle Vue v Swindon.
PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 48 Newcastle 41.
AMATEUR LEAGUE: Ipswich and King's Lynn 34 Lathallan 43. Postponed: Belle Vue v Reading and Swindon.

SWIMMING

GLASGOW: European junior championships: Men: 400m freestyle: 1, D Zavgorodny (Ukr) 3min 53.66sec; 2, J Hucnecke (Ger) 3:54.88; 3, D Croman (Rom) 3:57.40. 100m breaststroke: 1, R Sludnov (Russ) 1:03.21; 2, O Lisogor (Ukr) 1:03.39; 3, D Mew (GB) 1:03.48. 100m butterfly: 1, J Keizer Jons (Holl) 54.84; 2, A Polakov (Russ) 55.06; 3, R Greenwood (GB) 55.11. 200m medley: 1, T Kerekjarto (Hun) 2:03.62; 2, M Jacobsson (Swe) 2:05.87; 3, M Santaolaya (Sp) 2:06.00. Women: 100m freestyle: 1, C Potec (Rom) 56.65; 2, F Dufour (Bel) 57.30; 3, M Marshall (GB) 57.37. 200m backstroke: 1, Y Fomenko (Russ) 2:15.66; 2, J Bauer (Ger) 2:17.40; 3, L Porchianello (It) 2:14.47. 400m medley: 1, Y Klochkova (Ukr) 4:43.79; 2, S Podurariu (Rom) 4:52.87; 3, J Swallow (GB) 4:53.04. 4 x 200m freestyle relay: 1, Germany 8:17.45; 2, Holland 8:22.31; 3, Italy 8:22.98

TENNIS

AMSTERDAM: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: C Moyà (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; M Norman (Swe) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-3, 7-6.
MONTREAL: Men's tournament: Third round: R Krajicek (Holl) bt J Gimelstob (US) 6-2, 6-4; G Kuerten (Br) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4; T Enqvist (Swe) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-3, 6-2; M Chang (US) bt A O'Brien (US) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; C Woodruff (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 7-6, 6-2; F Santoro (Fr) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-2, 2-6, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt W Ferreira (SA) 7-5, 6-3; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt G Raoux (Fr) 7-5, 6-3.
CARLSBAD, California: Women's tournament: Second round: C Martinez (Sp) bt H Sukova (Cz) 6-1, 6-0. Quarter-finals: A Coetzer (SA) bt Y Basuki (Indo) 6-3, 6-4; M Seles (US) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6-1, 6-3.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SAILING 37
Merricks makes mark in Admiral's Cup

SPORT

SATURDAY AUGUST 2 1997

CRICKET 40, 41
Australians enjoy mixed day at Taunton

Athletes aim to restore golden glow

David Powell surveys British chances at the world athletics championships in Athens and finds good reason to be cautiously optimistic

THE athletes of Great Britain, who found themselves cast as the unfortunate scapegoats for the collective failure of the nation at the Atlanta Olympics last year, will seek to disperse the clouds that have gathered over the great summer of British sport when they compete in the nine-day world championships, which begin here today.

Few sports can claim world championships that are truly global and none can match athletics. There are 200 countries represented here, three more than in Atlanta. To most, Britain stands like a giant, one of the top six nations. After a season in which British athletes have already performed superbly — the men winning the European Cup for the first time in eight years — there is little sign of creaking limbs.

Britain has fewer late casualties than most. A virus cost Roger Black his place but, that apart, the only concerns have been the injuries carried by Jonathan Edwards and Ashia Hansen, the two elite triple jumpers. The ailments will not stop them competing.

The form of Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson, gold medal-winners at the world championships of 1993, has not been good, but that is something that we have grown used to over the past three years. In that time, Denise Lewis has emerged as potential successor to Gunnell as Britain's golden girl, and Iwan Thomas is the new tank engine of European 400 metres running.

Thomas is one of five individual gold medal hopes from Britain, though the one carrying the longest odds. Lewis, in the heptathlon, and Edwards are perhaps Britain's strongest contenders, closely followed by Steve Backley, in the javelin, and Kelly Holmes, in the 1,500 metres. Thomas's chances depend as much on Michael Johnson failing to regain his form as on his own performance.

Edwards, Britain's only winner at the last world championships, in Gothenburg two years ago, remains confident despite a heel injury that has kept him out of competition for five weeks. Hansen, the world indoor silver medal-winner, has missed training with a back injury. However, Malcolm Arnold, the Great Britain performance director, said yesterday that, although she was "not quite 100 per cent" she was "bright and beaming".

Holmes is unbeaten this year and, furthermore, Steve Cram believes that he has seen in Holmes this season the same change that he saw in himself in 1985, when he gained the conviction that he could win races run in almost any way. "I am in the best shape of my life," Holmes said.

So is Steve Backley, Britain's most successful championship performer over the past three years, yet so unappreciated that he has been calling himself "the invisible man". Invisible and miserable, briefly, after Britain's athletes, despite finishing well up the Olympic medals table with four silver and two bronze, were dismissed as failures by sections of the media.

He remembers arriving back at Heathrow to be greeted by a wall of reporters and photographers. "The first question was: 'Did it come as a disappointment to be part of such a discredited team?'" Backley said. "That was so disappointing, it really hit hard." But, as Arnold, said: "The athletes came in at the end of a wave of British failure and were tarred with the same brush. I do not think we should have been."

Wimbledon and the Open golf championship have come and gone without a British victory, England's cricketers are in the doghouse and the rugby league players have been repeatedly overwhelmed in the world club championship.

Whether Britain's athletes are to return home as part of the recent trend, or whether they will be feted, like the British Lions were for their success in South Africa, next Tuesday will tell: Backley, Holmes and Thomas all have their finals that day. Either way, you will not find Arnold chain-smoking his way through the day like David Graveney, chairman of the England cricket selectors.

"The men winning the European Cup, and the women finishing third, set up for the mood for the season," Arnold said. "If the men had finished fourth, and the women had been relegated, it would have been dire and desperate. Ours is still the best performing sport in the country."

Others are impressed. Australia has approached Arnold to prepare its athletes for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, but he said that it was unlikely he would accept.

While Britain has a cluster of secondary medal prospects, notably the 4x400 metres relay team, Mark Richardson and Jamie Baulch, in the 400 metres, and Richard Nerurkar, in the marathon, they can be categorised as more of a Tottenham Hotspur than a Manchester United: a team that is capable of challenging on several fronts while not being expected to win anything.

The United States will, as always, dominate, but its national anthem will not be the most commonly-heard. Vangelis, the Greek who composed the soundtrack for *Chariots of Fire*, has provided an anthem for the International Amateur Athletic Federation, which will be played at each medal ceremony.

For the first time at outdoor world championships, there is prize-money — $60,000 [about £36,500] for first place, $30,000 for second, $20,000 for third and $100,000 for a world record. How ironic it would be if Sergey Bubka, the Ukraine pole vaulter who has made more money out of world records than anybody, should lose now. He is the only athlete with a clean sweep of titles, having won all five pole vault golds since the championships were inaugurated in 1983.

Women will receive equal pay. How times have changed. Women were banned from the first modern Olympics, in Athens, in 1896. In Ancient Olympic times they were not even allowed to enter the arena. The death penalty awaited any woman who tried.

Lewis eyes gold, page 42
Form guide, page 42

Black: victim of virus

Champions take on pretenders in Wembley curtain-raiser

Gullit in no mood for charity

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Dummy run: Zola, the Chelsea forward, practises free kicks in training yesterday, using a cardboard cut-out wall. Photograph: Robin Mayes

A POSSE of camera crews and an excited gaggle of young children gathered in the untidy countryside on the edge of west London yesterday to watch Chelsea give another summer the last rites. August may yet be in its infancy, but when Gianfranco Zola, who had stayed out long after his colleagues to practise his free kicks, trotted back into the clubhouse and left the strip of pitches empty and still, the preliminaries of the new football season came to an end.

Tomorrow, Zola, Di Matteo, Hughes, Wise and the rest will face Manchester United in the Charity Shield at Wembley, the traditional signal that the time for friendlies is over and that the Premiership is about to flood back in a roaring, rushing torrent of matches. At Chelsea, in particular, the sense of anticipation is overwhelming.

Everyone knows United will be strong again, so strong that their manager, Alex Ferguson, suggested yesterday that he would rest David Beckham, one of the most talented of his array of young players, for the first three weeks of the season because he was worried his stamina had been sapped by playing for England in the Tournoi de France.

But this year, for the first time in many a season, there are also those who feel that Chelsea, now in the second year of Ruud Gullit's polyglot evolution, may be genuine contenders for the champions' crown. Gullit appears to have bought wisely during the summer and positions that once were weaknesses may now become strengths.

Where Chelsea previously had an embarrassment of goalkeepers who were not quite good enough, there is now the towering Dutchman, Ed de Goey. At left wing-back, instead of Scott Minto, there is the flamboyant Nigerian, Celestine Babayaro, and in midfield, instead of Craig Burley, there is the elegant Uruguayan, Gustavo Poyet.

"I do not buy players so they can provide entertainment," Gullit said. "If that was my goal, then I would go to work in a circus. I needed players for certain positions and I needed them to learn how to play in this team.

"In some ways, it was easy for us last year because it was a new team and nobody expected anything of us. Now we need to be aware that teams will look differently at us. In the pre-season even, we have wanted to play friendly matches against other teams but they have not wanted to be so friendly with us.

"Everywhere I have been, my second year has been the most difficult part. You can get sloppy and complacent and lose motivation and that is not right. You have to respect the opposition and respect yourself. This season, I will do what I always do and take one week at a time. I do not want to look beyond that and talk about championships and things. I have the squad that I want now and all I am expecting is for them to do better than last year."

Gullit said time and again how much he admired the consistent excellence Ferguson had achieved at Old Trafford and that even the loss of Eric Cantona, who retired at the end of last season, was unlikely to affect their dominance. "The other players will want to show that they are as good as him," Gullit said.

At The Cliff, United's Salford training ground, the message was much the same. Gary Neville, who is struggling to be fit for the match against the FA Cup winners tomorrow, said the absence of the Frenchman had received scant mention at the club as they prepared to try to defend the title they won at a canter last season.

"To be honest with you, this is a cynical club," Neville said. "Eric does not get a mention. We just get on with it. He has gone and our attitude is simply 'there's another player gone'. It makes you think what it would be like if you left yourself. Nobody would give two hoots.

"Eric was massive but Manchester United and the club go on without him. It is more than a one-man team. It is a club that seems to lose a big player every season or at least it has for the last five or six years, players you might think you can't do without. The club has gone on and got even better without those players and that is what we have to do this year without Eric Cantona."

To add substance to his hopes, Neville pointed out that United's midfield against Chelsea was likely to be Paul Scholes, Roy Keane, Nicky Butt and Ryan Giggs. To complement them, Teddy Sheringham, one half of England's fearsome strike-force, will be in attack. The Frenchman who was king has gone but the cast that once supported him is ready to step up.

TEAMS

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, G Neville, R Johnsen, P Neville — P Scholes, N Butt, R Keane, R Giggs — J Cruyff, E Sheringham.

CHELSEA (probable, 4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, S Clarke, F Leboeuf, D Granville — D Petrescu, J Morris, G Poyet, D Wise — M Hughes, G Zola.

Referee: P Jones.

Foreign aid, page 43

ON MONDAY

A 24-page guide to the Premiership

PLUS

Choose your Fantasy Team

Cotton to play role he coveted

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

FRAN COTTON'S substantial presence, which has loomed over British rugby during the recent British Isles tour of South Africa, now takes shape within the confines of the English game. The Lions manager was named yesterday as joint vice-chairman of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) management board with responsibility for the strategic development of the representative game.

Cotton, perhaps the single most influential supporter of Cliff Brittle in the elections for board chairman last month, will now appear even more as the power behind Brittle's throne. His title will be that of management board vice-chairman (playing) and he is joined by another power broker during the recent political in-fighting that has plagued the RFU, Sir Michael Stear, who becomes management board vice-chairman (administration) and will work with the new support services personnel at Twickenham.

This is precisely the role that Cotton has sought in his crusade to restore the integrity of the union, which extends not only to the game within England, but also to relationships with other national unions within the northern hemisphere. Throughout the Lions tour, when the best players from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales demonstrated their capacity to take on the world champions and win, Cotton emphasised the need for the home unions to stand together as an effective lobby within world rugby.

"The appointment covers all aspects of the national team," Cotton said. "My primary involvement will be strategic planning and it will require good, professional, full-time people to implement and deliver the agreed policies." Cotton will work closely with Bill Beaumont, his former playing colleague and now chairman of the national playing committee, which meets on August 28 to determine the management of the national team.

"I'll sit down with key personnel to discuss the playing style we think is suitable for England to be successful at international level, both in the northern and southern hemispheres," Cotton said.

☐ Bath have named Andy Nicol, the Scotland and British Lions scrum half, as their new captain.

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Weary North proves unable to rise and shine

By Pat Gibson

IT WAS to have been a fairy-tale comeback to first-class cricket. Philip North, a left-arm spin bowler who captains Wales in the Minor Counties competition, had been recalled to the Glamorgan side after an absence of eight years for their crucial Britannic Assurance county championship match against Nottinghamshire.

Only it never happened. By the time that North's sponsored sky blue Toyota screeched into the last available space in the car park at the Colwyn Bay Cricket Club yesterday morning, Glamorgan had named their team and he was not in it. "Philip arrived at the ground over an hour late," Mike Fatkin, the Glamorgan secretary, explained, "and we felt that it was not appropriate to play him for disciplinary reasons."

North, 32, jibbed at the "disciplinary" bit. "That conjures up images of fighting and brawling, but it was nothing like that," he said. "I missed my wake-up call. That is the start and finish of it."

North was sharing a room with Hugh Morris, the former Glamorgan captain and England opening batsman, in the team hotel at Llandudno, where they had booked a call for 8am.

Apparently, Morris left for breakfast before the call came and then headed straight off to the ground, leaving his room-mate to sleep on — until 10am. "I just cannot understand why I didn't get the call," North said. "It had not been an overly late night, that's the worst part of it."

Late night or not, it was a late morning — about 10.50, to be precise — by the time he had driven the six miles to the ground at Rhos-on-Sea and he accepted that Glamorgan had no alternative but to leave him out. "The rules are the rules and the club were right to do what they did," he said. "You have to be at the ground by 9.30; if you're a little bit late you get fined and if you are very late, like I was, you get dropped. I feel very badly about it and have apologised to the club. I have let them down and I have let myself down. I picked a hell of a day to have a lie-in."

North was released by Glamorgan in 1989 after five years on the staff but had been recalled because Dean Cosker, their young left-arm spinner, was required to play for the England Under-19 team.

"Matthew Maynard [the Glamorgan captain] and I have been talking about such a contingency since last winter so obviously I am very disappointed," North said. "It was never 100 per cent certain that I was going to be in the side and it was only ever going to be a one-off thing, but it would have been nice to play."

Instead, Gary Butcher, an all-rounder, took his place while North spent the rest of the day acting as twelfth man before travelling back to Swansea, where he has been the professional for the past four years. He will play today in their South Wales Cricket Association match, against Briton Ferry Steel, at St Helen's, and said: "At least I will get to play on a county ground."

County reports, pages 40 and 41

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Have you the neck to wear the new drape?
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Win a Cherry Coke surfboard worth £1,500
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SATURDAY AUGUST 2 1997

For better or for worse – let the computer decide

Are you really right for each other? **Jill Parkin** reports on a new exam that could stop you making the biggest mistake of your life

Would you have married him had you known that he spent Saturdays with ferrets? Or if you had had an inkling of her passion for garlic? Or if you had ever suspected the effect that fluffy slippers would have had on your love life?

Perhaps, before you had fallen on one knee, wiped a clammy palm and bid for her hand, you should have asked what is about to become *the* question for every modern courting couple: "Will you . . . will you . . . will you fill in a pre-marital questionnaire with me?"

It may not have quite the same ring as a direct proposal. It may not end up with a wedding ring at all. It might, however, keep you out of the divorce courts a few years down the conjugal line.

Thousands of Americans are taking the marriage exam, an inventory of more than 100 questions, to find out whether they should be getting married at all. Eleven states, including Washington, Colorado, Minnesota and Georgia, are considering whether to make the exam compulsory. Louisiana already has legislation on its books. And where America leads, Britain will surely follow. The concept is over here.

A handful of English clergymen and a few professional counsellors are preparing couples for marriage not with a pep-talk about commitment and tolerance but with a list of 125 multiple-choice questions and a computer analysis.

From inner-city Hackney to rural Norfolk, couples are turning up at the vicarage to be quizzed about his and her sexual expectations, favourite television programmes and future in-laws.

When the computer has done its crunching, the couples return to discuss the results and their proposed marriage in three or four follow-up sessions. No one actually says to you "do it" or "don't even think about it", but research in America shows that Prepare, one of the main systems, predicts divorce with 85 per cent accuracy.

The exam is a psychometric test, designed to draw out your unconscious attitudes. "We have the highest divorce rate in Europe," says the Rev Peter Brown, a Norfolk vicar who uses Prepare and brought it to Britain recently after working in America. "More than one in three marriages end in divorce. And there's nothing romantic about that."

More than one million people have sat the Prepare exam in the United States. Ten per cent of them decided not to marry after the results came through. Their results were just like those of the couples who went ahead, married and subsequently divorced.

Worldwide, Prepare has 35,000 practitioners, mainly in America. In Britain we have about 60, mainly clergy, including four or five vicars who insist that this is the only way they will fulfil their duty to prepare couples for marriage. In other words, they make the marriage exam compulsory on their patch.

A judge in Lenawee County, an hour's drive from Detroit, has effectively made marrying without inventory impossible in the county, where 68 per cent of marriages end in divorce. Judge James Sheridan is very keen on Prepare and has the agreement of the 60 churchmen and the 12 other marriage officials in the county.

Couples fill in their Prepare forms separately. The questions cover 11 problem areas, including money, sex, children, family of origin, religion, spare time and friends. The answers range through five degrees, from "agree strongly" to "disagree strongly".

The whole thing sounds a bit freaky and American. There's quite a lot of God (He gets as many questions as sex and all the other areas) for British tastes, and the vocabulary needs anglicising. But you don't succeed or fail in the

Continued on page 2

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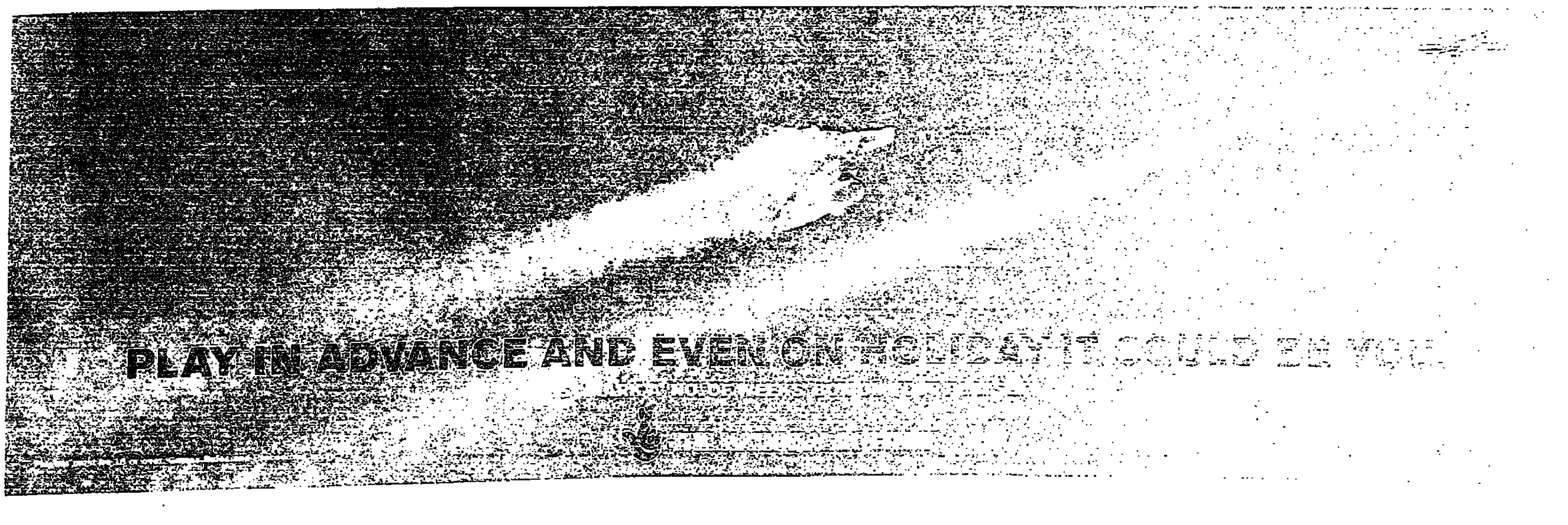

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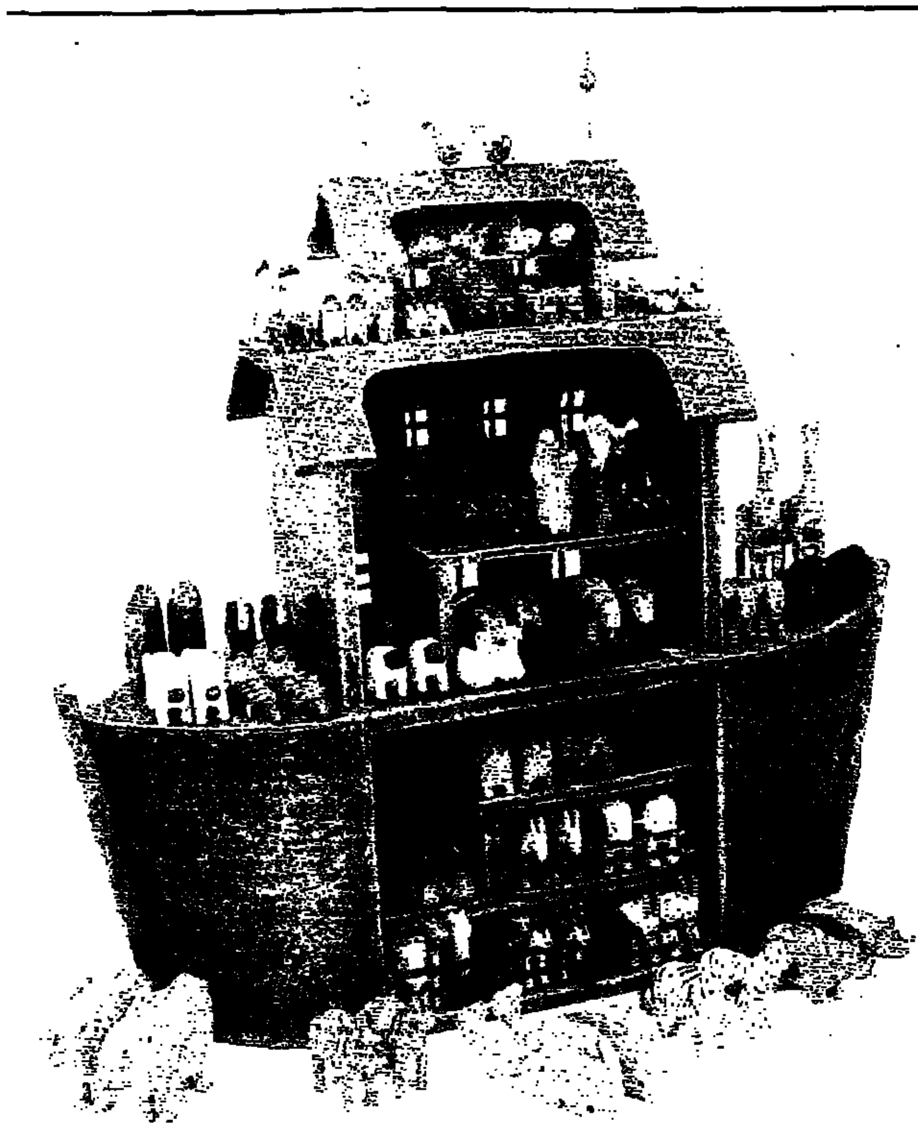
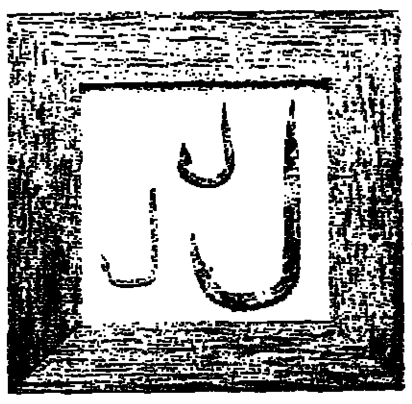
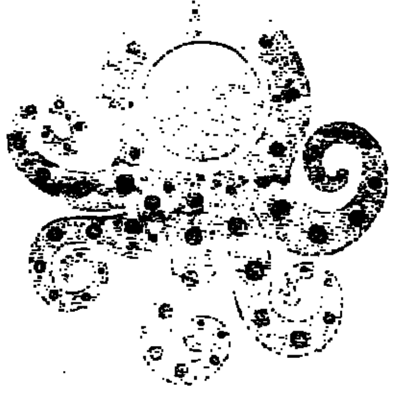


ABOVE: Miniature Noah's Ark with hand-carved and hand-painted animals, £295 for seven pairs of animals; £1,295 for 38 pairs. Shaker, 27 Harcourt Street, London W1 (0171-724 7672) or 322 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 3918)

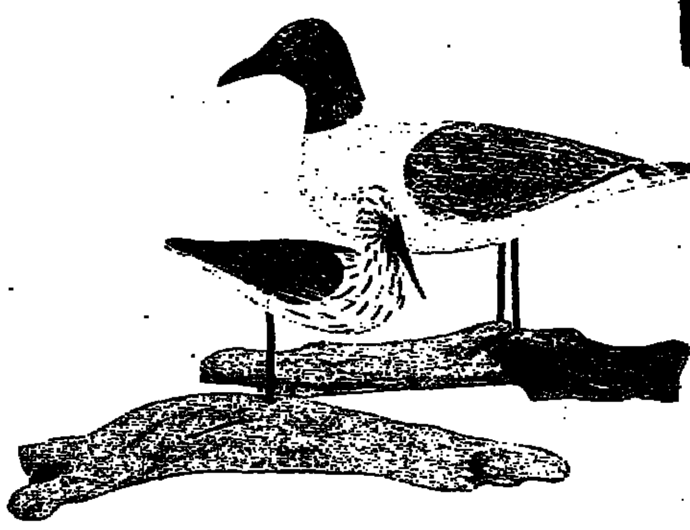


LEFT: Antique Palestinian fish hooks with a certificate of authenticity, in wooden frame, £35, Ancient Art (mail order: 0181-382 1509)

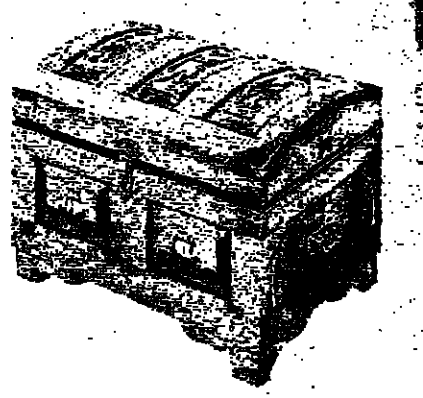
ABOVE: Sterling silver model yacht, made to commission, £20,000, Garrard, 112 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 7020)



RIGHT: Octopus hand-painted steel mirror, £49, The Catalogue (by mail: 0171-371 7017)



RIGHT: Laughing Gull (top) £69.95 and Baby Shorebird (below) decoys, £29.95, Shaker, as before



RIGHT: Hand-painted treasure chest with boat motif, £346.63 (small), Dragons, 23 Walton Street, London SW3 (0171-589 3795)

'Could the quiz have saved the Carlings or the Conrans?'

Would the computer have predicted the parting of Sir Terence Conran and his third wife?

ALPHA

UNIVERSAL PICTORIAL

Break-up: Will and Julia Carling, left, and Ivana Trump and Riccardo Mazzucchelli

Continued from page 1

marriage exam. You have strengths and weaknesses, or "growth areas". For example, if you run ten credit cards and your partner keeps his or her pay packet under the mattress, financial management will come up as a "growth area".

Dr Brown, an Englishman, is far from what most of us think of as a typical vicar. His doctorate is in textiles, from the University of Leeds. After university, he went to teach at the University of Minnesota, where a social sciences colleague, David Olson, was creating Prepare. Then, as part of his training for the priesthood, Dr Brown was taught to use the inventory.

"We're a much more mobile society and that has created a less stable base on which to build our lives," he says. "Fifty years ago we would probably have lived within easy reach of parents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles, which creates a pressure to conform. Now we have more freedom, but less help and collective wisdom. I wouldn't want to go back to that society, but we need something to replace that structure. And that's what Prepare does."

He has been married, the second time around, for 30 years, and is happy to marry divorced people in church.

Tania and Michael Jenkins, both divorced, found themselves doing Prepare simply because they asked Dr Brown to marry them. They'd been living together for three years and had a baby. "We hid our answers from each other," says Mrs Jenkins, who is 27 and a housewife. Her husband, 38, is a painter and decorator. "Some of the questions had us in stitches, but there were lots of things we didn't know about each other. You realise you don't communicate, though you go along thinking you do. It was mainly to do with holding in feelings. We talked about our mothers' deaths for the first time and now we talk things through."

Perhaps you'd rather curl up with your honeymoon holiday brochures than consider propositions such as "I go out of my way to avoid conflict with my partner", "I believe the woman's place is basically in the home" or "I believe my partner may be too interested in sex".

But seeing it all on paper and going through things with a third party was just what Jane Belton, 25, needed. She married Matthew Stubbs, 30, in May, with the blessing of Prepare. She is a charity worker for the Christian Children's Fund and her husband is a lawyer.

"The questionnaire was exciting and enjoyable," she says. "When you're getting married everyone is concentrating on the wedding. They all want to hear about the dress, the cake, the ring. No one actually wants to discuss the marriage itself, the years that follow that one day."

Mrs Stubbs read about Prepare in a wedding magazine, and the couple had their consultation with Nick Gulliford, a lay preacher and the UK co-ordinator for Prepare. She says: "I tend to feel that I must be talking all the time and that silence is a bad thing. I thought that when Matthew was just staring in space he was bored with me, or that there was a problem, or that he was plotting to do away with me or something. The tension I felt came out through Prepare and I became a lot more accepting and less worried after hearing him talk about how valuable he finds time to stare.

"It makes you confront issues rationally, because it's not a crisis time. You're not upset or fighting your corner. And you feel your growth areas are a challenge, not a failing. Everything was discussed. It makes you stop and think. It asks, 'What do you think it's going to be like?' "

Your answers are confidential, even from each other. The practitioner doesn't say: "Adam, Eve thinks you're stubborn." But he knows she does, so he says something like "Is one of you more stubborn than the other?"

"One of the beauties of the inventory," says Mr Gulliford, "is that it goes straight to the point. You have the main areas of likely conflict, you answer the questions and the computer then shows the disagreements. It's very quick."

Linda and Chris Carter-Jackson have a few "growth" areas. They married, each for the first time, a couple of years ago, when she was 42 and he was 39. "Doing Prepare has the same atmosphere as doing therapy," Linda says. "You can say things with a third person there that you can't say directly. It creates a safe place. You can expand into it and look inside your own head."

Linda was troubled by what she sees as a North-South divide, but what sounds more like a divide of class and education. Her husband, a quality assurance controller, is from Sunderland: she's an archivist from Somerset. They live in London.

"I say something to my husband and think I've planted a clear message, but he doesn't receive it," she says. "I'm a Girl Guide type. He has a great heart, he's well-meaning and only about 70 per cent reliable. Prepare showed up the areas we were skirting around, such as children. It gave me a great tolerance and showed me how differently he sees life."

Does her husband think Prepare is a good thing?

"There's a distinct possibility of its being a good thing," he says. "When you go and listen to what the practitioner says you can't just leave it there. You have to bring it home and talk it through. There were quite a few areas we were close on, and some surprising ones on which we were miles apart.

"When you're doing Prepare, you hear something and you think, 'That's not me.' Then you think, 'Bloody hell, it is me.' The one doubt I have is that it might throw some difference up which never would become a problem."

Malcolm Macnaughton, the Area Dean of Hackney in east London, intends to make Prepare a compulsory part of his marriage preparation of couples. He and his wife, Pamela, have just filled in the sister inventory for married couples who want to improve their relationship. The programme is called — again very American — Enrich, which sounds like something you stir into your coffee, but is actually another 125 questions.

He says: "Marriage in our society is under huge pressure. No one is immune."

Whether or not Prepare might have steered Sir Terence Conran away from a succession of broken marriages remains a matter for conjecture. Last month, a judge ordered him to provide his third wife with a divorce package worth £10 million — the largest sum yet for a contested divorce. Afterwards, he was bitter. "I feel very upset," he said. "She left me. That does not come out in the judgment. I was extremely upset after a long period of marriage. She took off on the thirtieth anniversary of our wedding."

Would the computer have predicted the couple's growth areas from such propositions as, "We have figured out exactly what our financial position will be after we marry"? Might the warning lights have flashed on the question of, "In our marriage, the husband should be as willing to adjust as the wife"?

I doubt whether Prepare would have saved the marriage of Ivana Trump and her Italian beau Riccardo Mazzucchelli, who have separated after 18 months. The year of pre-nuptial agreement negotiations were testing enough for any couple — one reporter at the time said that they made the Balkan peace talks at the time look like a vague arrangement to "do lunch". The fact that her bouquet of lilies of the valley began to wilt under the camera lights at the wedding service in a New York hotel lobby might have been portentous.

The wedding exam is also unlikely to prepare any couple for repeated encounters with Diana, Princess of Wales. Julia and Will Carling might have had no trouble with the proposition, "there is nothing that would cause me to question my love for my partner" until the former rugby captain met the Princess and became captivated.

However, the suggestion is that the pre-marital quiz will help to anticipate pitfalls as long as its contestants are prepared to be honest.

"Instead of preparing couples just for weddings, we ought to be preparing them for the whole thing they are taking on and give them some of the skills needed to make it work," the dean adds. "That commitment should not stop at the time of marrying them. They need to feel they can come back for help."

You might especially want to return if you agree strongly with the question, "My partner does not take our disagreements seriously" or "I believe my partner may be too interested in sex". But the marriage exam can only be a good thing, because it makes you sit down, think and talk.

The trouble is, the exam is also very funny.

- *To take the Prepare or Enrich exams costs £20. The cost of follow-up sessions varies, but is likely to be £30 an hour. Some vicars will meet part of the cost from parish funds. For more information call freephone 0500 900099.*

JILL PARKIN TAKES THE 'IS YOUR MARRIAGE OK?' EXAM

ON THE FACE OF IT, my husband and I didn't look a good bet. There's an age gap which stretches between Jerry Lee Lewis and Dire Straits. He was divorced when we met and we lived more than 250 miles apart. He doesn't like fish or fruit. He has items in his wardrobe which predate flares. And, a very bad thing, say the Prepare people, we lived together before marriage. Anyhow, everything that mattered seemed to be going for us, so six years ago we married, without benefit of computer clearance. Last week we took the Prepare/Enrich exam to check progress.

Parkin: "We are the best *sort of 'vitalised' couple"*

"Other marriage advice services could save a lot of time if they used the exam, said Nick Gulliford, a full-time chartered accountant before he encountered Prepare. "They spend so long talking round in circles trying to identify the problem."

Instead of talking, my husband and I sat in separate rooms studying questions such as, "I am reluctant to be affectionate with my partner because it is often misinterpreted as a sexual advance" and "I am not pleased with the personality characteristics and personal habits of my partner". Did that mean his habit of leaving traces of butter in the jam, and the teabags I leave in the sink? Is he really spending hours on the vegetable patch not because he likes broad beans but simply because he's terrified of a sexual advance? One hundred and twenty five questions later we posted our sheets to the Prepare computer. A day or two later the phone rang and Dr Peter Brown, who brought Prepare to this country from America, said: "It looks as if you're stuck with this guy for life, Jill. How do you feel about that?"

I could have replied by quoting question No 84 in the inventory, "I do not seem to have fun unless I am with my partner", but that would not be true, especially as I'm usually on the gin when he's on the vegetable patch. Anyhow, Mr Gulliford came to see us and pronounced us a "vitalised" couple. The best sort. In descending order, they go: vitalised, harmonious, traditional, conflicted and devitalised.

We should be feeling pretty good. Actually, only a couple of days later, we still wonder if we are in a Greek tragedy — smug, full of hubris, about to meet Nemesis.

The best has just got better

Magimix introduce the new Privilege 5100 with its gleaming chrome finish. This ultimate workhorse combines brilliant new looks with improved design. It works even better and is even easier to use. New features include: easy clean dishwasher safe 3.7 litres bowl, in white crystal; new easy fit lid; new and unique mini processor with its own Sabatier blade for smaller quantities and improved accessories including a full volume egg whisk and a new dough blade. We've kept the unmatched 950 watts self adjusting motor - no need for complicated controls - and it's still guaranteed for five years. For more details on the range, write to Magimix UK Ltd, 115A High Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1AQ.

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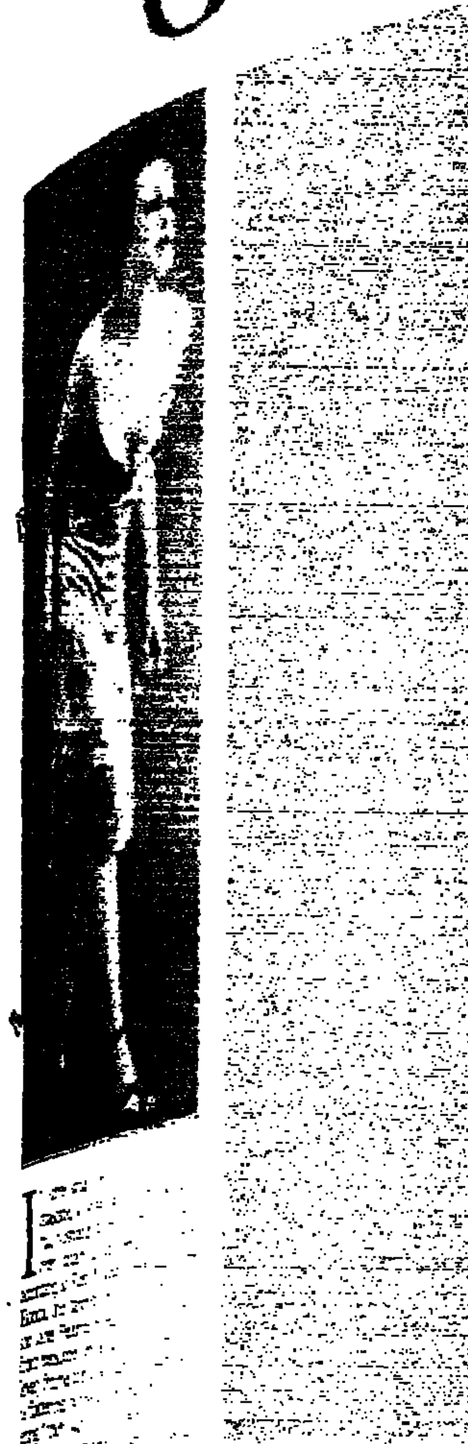


Fluid, lingerie-inspired dresses with draped necklines are the season's sophisticates, says **Heath Brown**

Go on, stick your neck out

ABOVE: Black diamond devoré dress, £60, Etam, 484 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-494 7732). Black-and-white feather collar, £50, Delphine Pariente, Browns, 24 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-491 7833). Feather hair clip, £25, Johnny Loves Rosie, Fenwicks, New Bond Street, W1 (0171-247 1496). **TOP LEFT:** Gold print dress, £55, The Collection, Etam, as before. Black-and-cream ankle-tie sandals, £49.99, Ravel, 184-188 Oxford Street, W1, and branches (0171-631 0224). Hair clip, as before

Photographs: **Richard Burns.** Hair and make-up: **Sarah Gottschalk,** using Glauca Rossi Products (mail order 0171-289 7485). Styling: **Amandip Uppal**

Red devorée dress, £55, Warehouse (0171-278 3491). Long black jacket, £500, Plein Sud, Whistles (0171-487 4484)

Black crêpe dress, £173, Sportmax (0171-287 3434). Black patent ankle boots, £275, Gina (0171-235 2932)

If dressing up is all about making a woman more beautiful, nothing does it more effectively than a draped neckline, according to Ren Pearce and Andrew Fionda, the talents behind the fashion label Pearce Fionda. "A drape-front neckline on a dress creates a lovely frame for a woman's face and is flattering without being overpowering," they say of the look that has become a signature for their catwalk collections. "This season we have updated the little black dress with it, making it an essential item."

Many other designers have used this "essential" style in their collections, including Katharine Hamnett, Hussein Chalayan and Sonja Nuttall, who uses it to emphasise a sense of glamour. "If cut well, the cowl neckline is very sensual and elegant," says Nuttall, whose bias-cut dresses are cut to support the bust beneath the folds. The neckline is particularly flattering, she adds, if the fabric is cut on the bias, which makes the grain fall more fluidly.

Although the style was popular in the Twenties and Thirties, the look now is not retro. "The draping detail uses an old technique, but for a modern approach," says Trish Krohn of Warehouse, which stocks several of the styles in georgette, jersey and velvet devoré. Krohn suggests wearing the dresses with severely cut jackets, giving the look a Nineties kick. "The lines of this sort of dress are refined and soft, which look feminine worn with sharp tailoring."

The neckline also gives an added twist to the slip dress, updating the simple strappy styles that, for a while now, have taken their look from lingerie and nightwear.

"This season the feel is for sexy lingerie-inspired dresses in fluid fabrics," says Gail Casimir, the chief designer at Etam. "The drape neck provides elegant but minimal detail which accentuates the female form rather than revealing it."

And to accessorise it? All designers either advocate leaving the neckline bare, which emphasises the dramatic folds of the dress, or wearing over-the-top decoration, such as bold feather boas. The ideal shoes are strappy, high-heeled sandals if the dress is knee-length, or long, slinky boots if the length is longer.

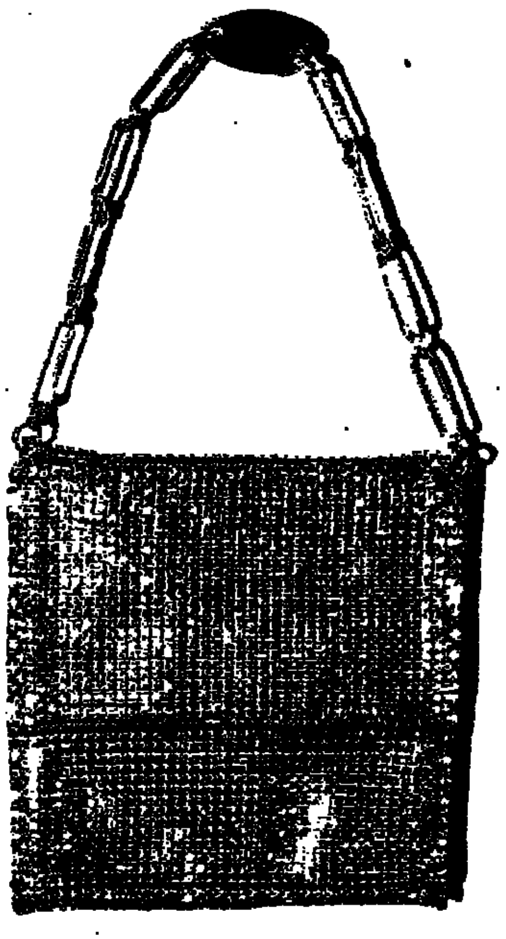
Whatever the decoration, it is a look that is sophisticated and modern, that works for both day and night. A look that has swags of style.

THREE OF A KIND

FOR THOSE really hard nights out, chain-mail bags are the perfect accessory: glamorous and glitzy but tough enough to withstand a real club bash. Nineties armour for hot summer nights. H.B.

Silver chain-mail bag, £30, Warehouse, selected branches nationwide (0171-278 3491)

Gold chain-mail kelly bag, £39, Fenwicks, New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)



Mini gold chain-mail bag, to order, Anya Hindmarch, 91 Walton Street, SW3 (0171-584 7644)

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Victoria's potted history

GARDENER'S UPDATE

JANE OWEN

THOSE WITH the odd £20,000 to spare could consider buying a rather impressive ornamental "flowerpot". It's an egg-shaped antique pottery vessel once used to store wine or olive oil. Called a grandonna, it is nearly 13ft high and weighs three tonnes. Beside it is the smaller Castillia Tinaja — weighing in at about 44lb and 23in tall. It costs £159, without VAT and seems positively cheap in comparison, though there is a delivery charge of about £40. The selection of pots at Victoria's Collection is extensive, expensive but stylish, and there is a 15 per cent discount for *Times* readers for one month only. The Victoria's Collection brochure is lavish and usually costs £10, but is free to *Times* readers, again for one month only.

● *Further details from: Victoria's Collection, Maltby House, London Road, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 9QP (01507 601221).*

French beauties

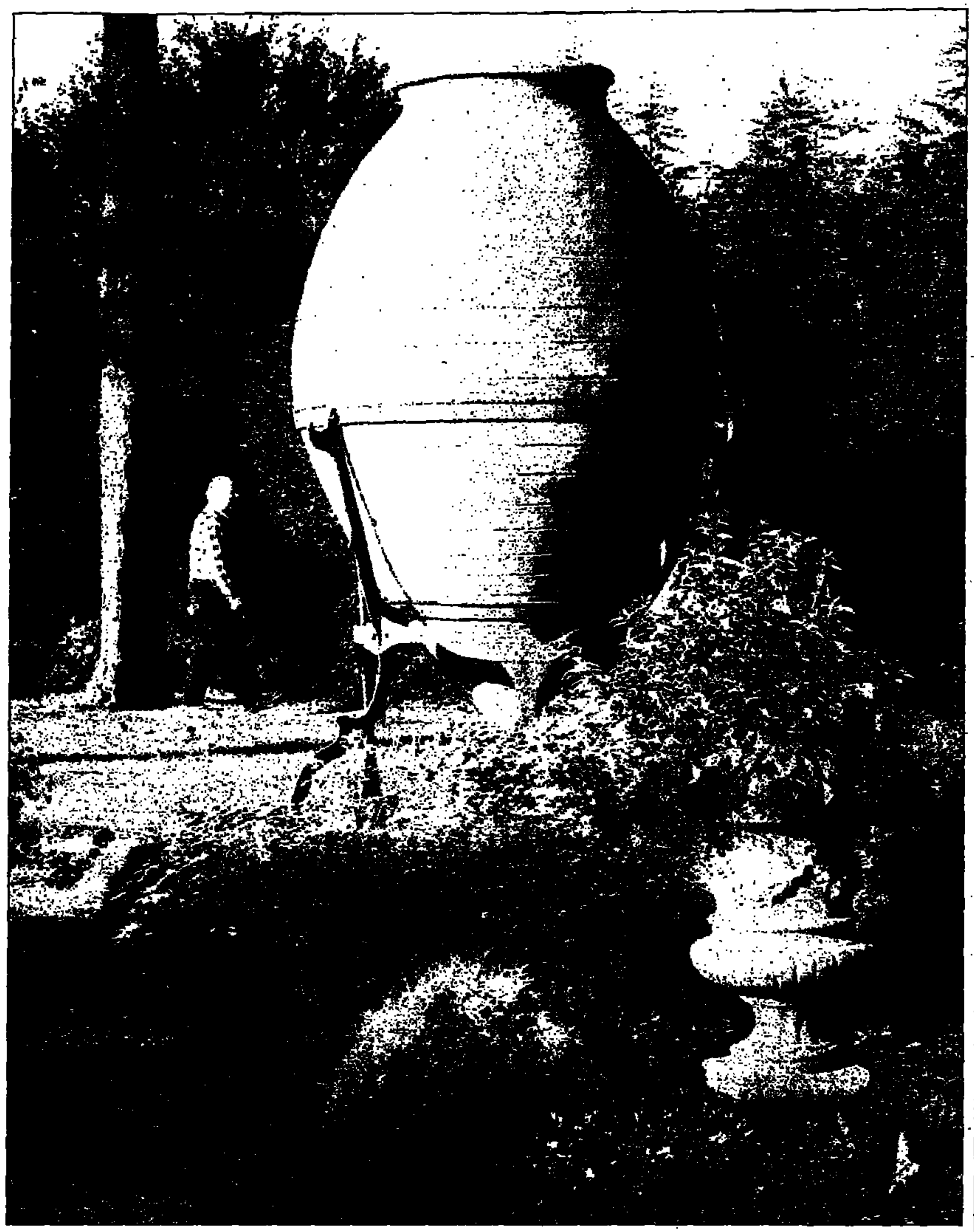
■ LOVERS of aquatic plants should visit the oldest water-lily nurseries in the world at Aquitaine, southwest France. The collection, in two and a half acres, provides nearly 90 per cent of today's hardy water lilies. It is open until October 31, 9am-6pm. For ticket prices, which vary, call Latour-Marliac SA, 47110 Le Temple-sur-Lot, on 00 33 5 53 01 08 05.

Talking trees

■ THOMAS PACKENHAM, the chairman of the Irish Tree Society, is running a one-day course at Altamont, Co Carlow, a 40-acre formal and informal garden with a scattering of rare trees in the arboretum, a bog garden and an Ice Age glen within sight of the Wicklow Mountains. The course, on September 6, costs £50 and includes morning coffee, home-cooked lunch and afternoon tea. Lectures only, £10. Details from Altamont Garden Trust, Altamont, Tullow, Co Carlow (00 353 503 59302).

Green tulips

■ MOST TULIP bulbs on sale are intensively farmed, with up to 25kg of chemicals used per hectare and fungicides alone being applied up to 12 times a season. The Dutch growers, Wim and Wiert Postema had been using this system until eight years ago, when they cut the bulb density of their fields, used crop rotation to keep pest and disease to a minimum and weeded out diseased bulbs by hand. For the first time, the resulting organically produced bulbs are available in this country — through the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) catalogue, which also includes daffodils and crocuses. The cost of a dozen organic tulip bulbs is £3.75. To get a free copy of the catalogue write to: The Organic Gardening Catalogue, Coombelands House, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1HY, or call 01932 820958.



Dominating the Victoria's Collection gardens at Louth, Lincolnshire, is this 13ft-tall grandonna "flowerpot" — at £20,000

Sound idea

■ IF THE whisper of trees and the tinkle of water from a fountain are not enough for your garden, outdoor speakers can pipe in such things as Handel's *Water Music* or the Spice Girls' latest hit straight into your shrubbery. With 30-watt power and sound projection through 360 degrees, the speakers are best suited to isolated gardens — noise nuisance can land you in court. The odd-looking, globe-shaped speakers are carried on top of a spike for easy positioning and, according to the manufacturers, are totally weatherproof. They cost £69 each, including VAT and delivery throughout the UK. More information from TW2, PO Box 72, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 4ZW (0181-626 9295).

Fair deal

■ SAVILL GARDENS, Wick Lane, Englefield Green, Surrey, off the A30, is staging an "autumn plant fair" on August 23, from 10am-5.30pm. The fair will be held by the large coach and car parks and will offer some excellent plants for those who arrive early enough — plant fairs such as this tend to sell out fast. The 35-acre gardens are worth a visit, too, especially with their large temperate house, which opened two years ago with a range of tender plants including a weeping Kashmir cypress, tree ferns and eucryphias. Entrance to garden, £3.50. Details on 01753 860222.

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q **Five years ago I planted a lavender cotton and a curry plant on a steep, south-facing bank. Both plants produced a good crop of small yellow flowers in July-August for the first two summers, but for the last three years there have been none, despite continuing thick and healthy foliage. Why is this, and have you a remedy?** — Lady Warner, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

A Occasionally, a lavender cotton *(Santolina)* and curry plant *(Helichrysum italicum)* will flower so profusely that some or all of the bush is exhausted by the effort, and the subsequent year is spent in building up strength again, with no flowers present. They must have full sun, of course. I wonder if your plants have found some especially rich soil, because that, too, might prevent them flowering, by encouraging soft growth. Too much clipping back of such soft growth induces even more soft growth, which is unlikely to flower. I would leave well alone for a year, with no feeding and only the occasional nipping out of a wayward shoot.

Q **I am minding a friend's house for the summer and I have summer-pruned the wisteria. I would hate to compost all that growth. Is it possible to propagate this exotic stuff?** — *E. Kindler, Oxted, Surrey.*

Greater love hath no man than to summer-prune someone else's wisteria. However, propagation is harder. It can be done by taking heel or nodal (leaf-joint) cuttings from the base of this year's shoots in August. Use hormone rooting powder and a sandy compost. But they are not easy. If you do decide to make cuttings, use newly cut wood. All prunings will have to be composted. Normally, wisteria is propagated by grafting on to seedling stocks. Seed is an easy method of propagation, but plants from seed take many years to flower.

Q **Two years ago we potted our Christmas tree and it has grown well. It came indoors again last Christmas, but this time the needles nearest the trunk went brown and dropped after the tree was put outdoors again. It is still growing but how do we avoid more needle-dropping?** — J.P. Hett, London SW19.

A When a Christmas tree with roots comes indoors, it thinks it is summer and, if you kept it in long enough, it would grow. In the meantime, it says to itself, it's hot, better lose a few layers, and it prepares to shed its older needles to reduce transpiration. To avoid this do two things: at Christmas, keep the tree somewhere cool, rather than by a radiator. Also, water it well outdoors while the new shoots are growing, and feed it gently, to ensure the new growth is will hide any premature dropping of needles. In summer, stand it where its roots will be cool but its foliage will be in sun.

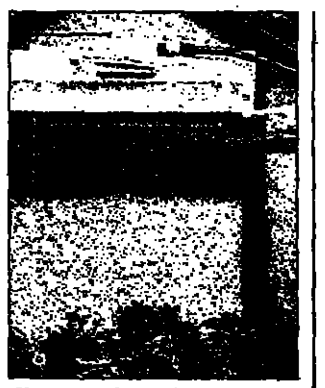
Q **For years we have composted successfully with an Auriol quadrant gate system. Four "gates" link together and are lined with a perforated polythene tube. When the bin is full, the gates are removed and the compost left to rot down. The system is no longer in production and I need a new source of heavy-duty polythene. Bin liners would be too small.** — Mrs A.R. Bradford, New Barnett, Hertfordshire.

Builders' merchants sell heavy-duty polythene, for use as a damp-proof membrane under concrete floors. Or you could get some from the hardware catalogue produced by LBS Horticulture, Standroyd Mill, Cottontree, Lancashire BB8 7BW.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH

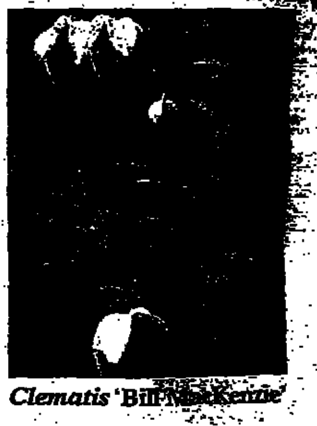
THE Magic Leaf Propagator is an ingenious invention which mists an area of cuttings automatically as the leaves dry. It knows when the leaves need misting because an aluminium mesh leaf, clipped into a balance mechanism on the machine, has the same rate of transpiration as the cuttings. As the leaf dries, the balance triggers the mister to begin work. The inventor, Terry Burns, a retired surgical instrument maker, and his wife Sue, make each machine by hand. It fills the gap between large commercial systems and the small amateur market. Their customers are usually amateurs or small-scale specialists, such as Richard Blenkinship, of Orchard Nurseries near Grantham, Lincolnshire, who raises about 30,000 plants a year with the help of the mister. The propagator retails at £125 but is available for *Times* readers for £95, incl. p&p, by writing to: *ML Propagators, Fairview Cottage, Shucknall Hill, Hereford HR1 3SW, or calling 01432 850213.*



The magical plant mister

PLANT OF THE MONTH

THE CLEMATIS 'Bill MacKenzie' still seems to get overshadowed by its older relation *C. tangutica*, from which, it is thought, 'Bill MacKenzie' was hybridised. Both are yellow with open, bell-shaped flowers and both are vigorous, but 'Bill' has flowers with thick petals which are nearly twice the size of its older relation. It is a bright, bold, well-behaved plant with mid to pale green, deeply cut leaves. Both varieties are in full flower now and will go on until the frosts. Sadly, one of the great specialists, Valley Clematis, has closed, but another nursery with a good, wide range of stock is Treasures of Tenbury, of Burford House Gardens, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire WR15 8HQ (01584 810777). Its new clematis list is available the price of an SAE. Otherwise, try tracing alternative sources through the RHS guide *The Plant Finder* (Dorling Kindersley, £12.99), which lists about 70,000 plants and where to find them, and is available from most garden centres and bookshops.



Clematis 'Bill MacKenzie'

Things bold and beautiful

■ **Hadspen Garden, Castle Cary, Somerset (01749 813707)**

Between Castle Cary and Wincanton and A371. Signposted. Open Thurs, Sun and Bank Hols, 9am-6pm, until Oct 1. £2.50, children 50p.

I visited Hadspen on a wet and windy June day but my enthusiasm was not dampened. In fact, the heavy atmosphere enhanced the first picture of the chaste stone house seen across park and backed by woods that you pass en route to it.

The garden has been remade by Nori and Sandra Pope, both Canadian, during the past ten years and now bubbles with bold planting and combinations that depend on colour, foliage and shape. The walled garden site is unusual, forming a kind of bowl, with the wall curving away to the left from the entrance gate and descending the sloping site to the bottom in front of a backdrop of wooded slope.

In front of the wall is the garden's planting forte, a curving border that progresses in colour from vibrant hot reds and oranges to pinks and, eventually, creams at the bottom. It might sound rather predictable, but the choice and arrangement of plants certainly is not.

The sense of adventure and bold scale is equally evident in the yellow borders that extend straight down the slope from the main entrance gate, in the jungle-like foliage of the rodgersias (of which Hadspen holds the National Collection) and the planting around a romantic sunken pool that you can either turn to first or discover on the way out.

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

■ **House of Tongue, Tongue, by Lairg, Sutherland (01847 611209)**

North of Tongue off A838. Open today for Scotland's Gardens Scheme. £1.50, children 50p.

The garden, which lies behind and above the 17th-century house, is enclosed by protective stone walls. Perhaps the most rewarding place to start is the upper terrace, reached via beech-hedged steps, to enjoy views over the Kyle of Tongue.

The main area is a combination of simplicity and the old-fashioned — gravel paths, low clipped hedges and herbaceous borders with, for example, campanulas, phlox and michaelmas daisies, that will continue flowering well into autumn, dividing plots of fruit and vegetables.

CLIVE NICHOLLS

Floral finery: Hadspen in Somerset

Rode Hall, Church Lane, Scholar Green, Cheshire (01270 882961)

About five miles southwest of Congleton. Open Tues-Thurs and Bank Hols until Sept 24, 2-5pm. £2, children and OAPs £1.

As you approach through its parkland, the fine house, whose appearance changed in stages through the Georgian period, beckons and you instantly get the impression that the whole scene has been well planned. Humphry Repton worked here in the late 18th century and nearly 100 years later the Victorian garden designer William Nesfield laid out the formal and rose gardens. From Nesfield's formal area and rose garden you can look across to where the garden merges into park and farmland and to Repton's long lake, planned to make a visual feature and a boundary. The dell garden, with flowering shrubs and rockwork (not on the same scale as those at nearby Biddulph Grange but still an intriguing period feature) is different in mood to Nesfield's formality. At this time the forte is the restored walled kitchen garden.

JANE OWEN

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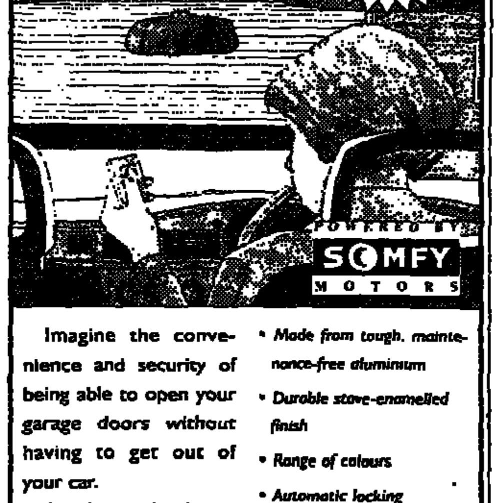

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CRAFTSMAN BUILT: DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY

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Natural call of the wild

Barbara Abbs looks at how formality is giving way to 'greener' havens of native wild flowers and grasses

Having a naturalistic garden does not mean having to live surrounded by deeply unattractive native plants like nettles and goosegrass (cleavers) or snail-harbouring ivy. Ecology and conservation have had a significant effect on parks, gardens and open spaces in recent years, and aesthetic considerations such as colour and form have sometimes been lost in the concern for wildlife habitats.

Yet one only has to look at the exciting and sustainable communities of native and introduced plants used in parks and gardens in Holland, Germany and America to realise that this need not be so.

At an international symposium on perennial plants and new trends in planting designs at Kew recently, speakers included academic ecologists, landscape architects and designers of private and public gardens in The Netherlands, America and the UK. Neil Diboll, proprietor of the Prairie Nursery in Wisconsin, began with an inspiring yet practical account of recreating the flora of the American Prairie in a garden setting.

The prairie soils of America are among the richest on the Continent; that is why the prairie flora has been largely replaced by the monoculture of the Coal Belt. Re-establishing it began in the 1930s at the University of Madison in Wisconsin.

'Seeing pictures of English cottage gardens in books had made many American gardeners realise that their "weeds" made effective border plants. Bold daisies like echinacea, rudbeckia and helianthus, spikes of solidago and liatris, and especially native grasses, were not considered suitable for gardens until ten years ago.

Now an enthusiasm for ecologically sound native flowers and for "prairie planting" is sweeping through swaths of the United States, much as the fashion for wildflower meadows is growing here. Prairie planting attracts humming birds and butterflies, and is very low-maintenance. Like a wild flower meadow, it is also beautiful to look at, with the freckled charm of a *mille fleurs* tapestry.

Creating a prairie is not as simple as it sounds. No wild-flower planting is. A successful prairie takes five years to establish. Site preparation is of the essence. Two years of barren earth, while emerging annual and perennial weed seeds are repeatedly knocked on the head with Round-up, seems to be essential. After that, the area can be seeded with a balanced mixture of suitable herbaceous perennials and grasses.

The new perennials and baby grasses are not very interesting the following summer, but in the second year, black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*, will flower, and by the third year (the fifth after you have started work) the effect is ravishing, whatever the season – the dry grasses look wonderfully dramatic rimed with frost, or emerging from a quilt of snow. From then on it is simply a matter of cutting down or burning back in spring every third year or so.

The Dutch, with a more complex garden tradition, have borders which vary from a familiar "cottage garden" style to parks planted entirely with indigenous plants and grasses. In 1926 J.P. Thijsse in The Netherlands realised that urban life and intensive agriculture were destroying wildflower habitats and developed the first *heempark*, or "home park", planting only native trees and flowers.

The most beautiful, the park named after him at Amstelveen on the edge of Amsterdam, has been long established. Landscape-design students have been visiting it for 30 years, but it is only lately that it and other *heemparks* have come to the notice of private gardeners. Hein Koeningen, who is in charge of Amstelveen Parks Department, emphasised that the park, while using native trees and wildflowers, is designed, above all, to be beautiful.

It is far from being a low-maintenance area. The beds are hand-weeded and wild plants are grown in pots and planted out when necessary. Heathers are clipped by hand rather than by machine to keep them compact. In many ways, it is maintained like an old-fashioned private garden.

Naturalistic planting using native perennials is increasing in Britain. There are, however, some particular problems created by our climate. The damp winters, cooler and wetter summers, unexpected late frosts or unusually dry springs, and armies of slugs and snails, can decimate the perennial plants grown in grass. Grasses here have a long season of active growth, and continue to germinate through the autumn.

Hardy perennials in an American prairie garden need to be vigorous to compete with all the surrounding plants and grasses, deep rooted to cope with the worst of droughts, and showy to compete aesthetically with the rest of the vegetation. In Britain those echinaceas and rudbeckias, which seem so tough in America, can be seriously weakened by late frosts and slugs, and fail to compete effectively with neighbouring grasses.

At Cowley Manor in Gloucestershire, Noel Kingsbury is trying two ways of growing perennials, influenced by German and Dutch planting. Described simplistically, one is to have flower borders with grasses, the other, grass with flowers. His experience can assist anyone planning to introduce a more naturalistic, wildlife-friendly and lower-maintenance element into their garden without losing the colour, form and variety of the traditional English border.

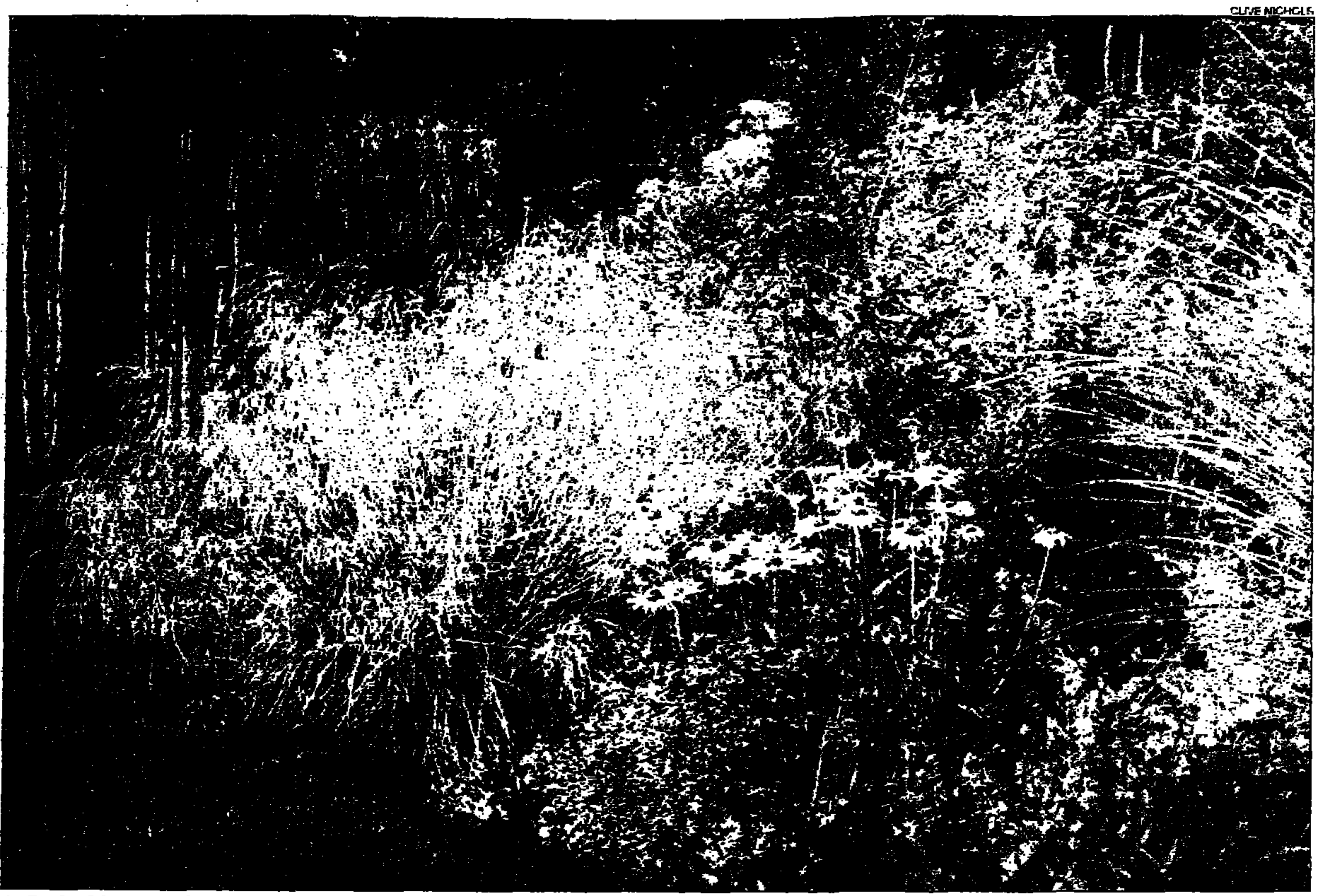
Successful plants to grow in grass are semi-evergreen, such as *Verbascum olympicum* and many of the geraniums such as *Geranium Macrorrhizum* and *G. endressii*. They start into growth early, such as *Lamium orvala* and *Meconopsis cambrica*, or they form big clumps, in the case of *Acanthus longifolius* and the larger polygonums, which keep surrounding grasses at bay.

The perennials do not have to be native plants to look natural and be part of a self-sustaining and exciting group. In the border-plus grasses, species like *Knautia macedonica*, with deep red scabious flowers, or *Anemone hupehensis*, fit in perfectly, as do cultivars like the soft yellow daisy, *Anthemis* 'E.C. Buxton'.

Grasses in borders should be clump-forming, not turf or mat-forming. Choose *Pennisetum villosum*, the feather top, *Helictotrichon sempervirens*, the blue oat grass, the semi-evergreen *Bouteloua gracilis*, Mosquito grass or *Stipa gigantea*, Golden oats, and avoid *Phalaris arundinacea, var. picta*, Gardeners garters, *Leymus arenarius* or *Holcus mollis*, which spread by underground rhizomes, or *Carex pendula*, elegant but much too vigorous.

Carefully planted, a border of mixed herbaceous perennials and grasses can be aesthetically pleasing, easy to maintain and will attract birds and butterflies. It does not need to be rigidly confined to native wild flowers and indigenous grasses. If some of these notions sound familiar, William Robinson's still influential *The Wild Garden*, published in England in 1870, was a plea for a very similar type of planting.

● *Cowley Manor, Cowley, near Cheltenham (SE of Cheltenham off A435) is open every day except Monday and Friday until October 30 (01242 870526).*


CLIVE NICHOLS

At Cowley Manor, *Echinacea* 'Green Heart', *Deschampsia cespitosa* and *Knautia macedonica* have been used to create more naturalistic, but still colourful, borders

CHECKLIST

TO establish naturalistic perennial planting . . .

- Clear perennial weeds.
- Do not over-fertilise.
- Select the right plants for the soil and situation.
- Choose grasses that form clumps rather than mats.
- Plant in the autumn.
- Mulch to save moisture and prevent germination of annual weeds.

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Gadgets take the hell out of high watering

Crushed blooms and wet feet are a thing of the past thanks to hanging-basket tools, writes **Stephen Anderton**

Among all the tat, sometimes gardening devices come along which are genuinely useful. I include with these the devices for watering hanging baskets.

The principle is simple. A lance with a U-bend, like a walking stick, is attached to a hosepipe. There is an on-off control at the bottom end, and the upper, bent, end is inserted between the plants in the basket to get the water directly into the soil. It saves you getting your feet wet twice a day in hot weather, and you can take comfort in knowing that enough of the water has hit the soil, rather than bouncing off the foliage. No need for ladders, or trips backwards and forwards to the tap with a watering can.

If the water is hitting the soil and not the plants, the plants will look better. There is nothing so sad as busy lizzies with their dead flowers plastered to the leaves with water. In areas where the water is very limey, that too builds up on the foliage to give a scurfy, tired effect.

When you plant up a hanging basket it is worth bearing the maintenance in mind. If you regularly forget to water your baskets and have to give emergency resuscitation once a week, go for the more forgiving species such as ivy, spider plants and trailing pelargoniums.

Avoid yellow creeping jenny and trailing *Helichrysum petiolare*. The latter may make a good leafy foil for more spectacular flowering plants, but once they have seriously wilted, the grey form and especially the yellow 'Limelight' look miserable and papery until they have grown new leaves.

Think about the deadheading. Some plants, like bidens, verbena and scaevola, can be left to flower all season with no deadheading at all. I like to deadhead petunias to keep them flowering vigorously into autumn.

This year I have been growing the small-flowered trailing 'Carillon' petunias, and they have been covered in flower since May, with no dead-heading at all. They have a charm and a delicacy quite unlike the chunkier old-fashioned petunias, or even the Surfinia types. (Botanists say they are calibrachoas, not petunias at all.) The leaf is small too, and the whole plant low, so it can be used to blend in as a foil for bigger blooms. If you want to grow hungry and thirsty plants, like fuchsias, in baskets, then it pays to water properly and feed generously all the time.

You may like to use the special hanging-basket composts, which contain moisture-retentive gels, or you can make your own with separately purchased gel granules such as Swel-Gel. Hungry feeders can be given extra feed by occasionally putting an in-line fertiliser diluter on the hose when you water.

Much less trouble is to insert into the compost at planting time one of the bullets of Osmocote slow-release fertiliser, which will dissolve gradually over the season. It is also important, however you intend to water, to make the surface of the compost concave, so the water does not run off before it has time to sink in. Once the compost is full of roots it will keep its dish shape despite pressures of water from a hose, but at planting time the shape needs exaggerating in the basket, to get it established.

If you dislike spending money on fancy watering lances, there is a distinctly low-tech *Blue Peter* version available, the Easi-Reach, from Erin (£8).

Like a hollow plastic croquet mallet with an extendable handle, it is dunked into a bucket of water, then lifted up to the basket. The water comes out from perforations at one end, like a sugar sifter. However, as the reservoir is as fat as a croquet mallet, I do not see how you water a fully planted basket without the water going all over the leaves, and thence your feet. The beauty of a hose lance is that you can poke it in between plants to reach the soil.

Erin also produce a gadget called the Hi-Lo (£5.99, £9.99 for two), for lowering and raising hanging baskets. It is rather like a butcher's hanging scales, or the pulleys that were used to raise and lower early electric chandeliers.

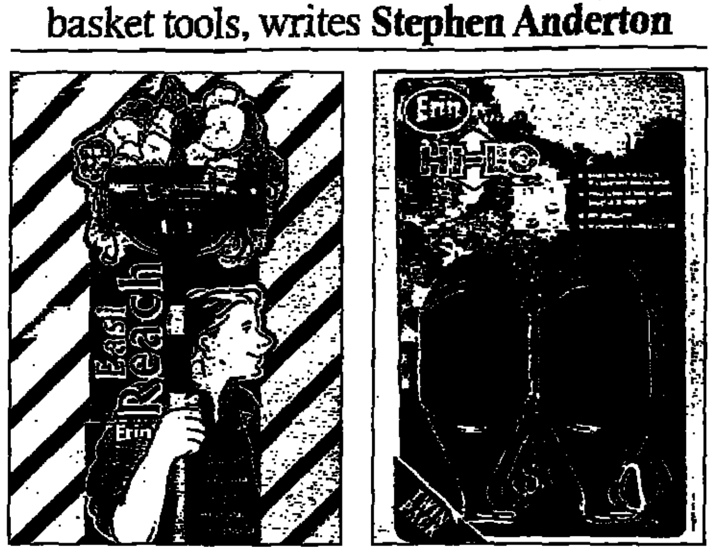
It is fixed between the basket and its supporting hook, and allows the basket to be pulled down for maintenance and pushed up again.

It extends for 30in, which is just about enough, and will support a maximum weight of 20lb (9kg). That is fully laden weight, with a season's worth of foliage on top, and soaked after a thorough watering. It could be very useful.

But it is not just useful for watering, but for having a close look at the plants, too. Plants need deadheading and constant care; plants in baskets are if anything more prone to pests and diseases than plants in the ground or even large pots, because life in a basket is always tough. Buffeting winds, hot roots, competition for root-run, periodic sluicings of water instead of a constant supply in the ground, are all reasons for making a plant stressed.

And it is always the weak and the stressed which succumb to diseases.

So be kind to your baskets. Water them regularly, in the cool of morning or evening, and get an enquiring nose in there as often as the hosepipe.



High and dry: the Easi-Reach (left) and Hi-Lo watering systems

WEEKEND TIPS

- ■ Ensure runner beans have plenty of water. Give liquid feed with a tomato fertiliser. Pick regularly to keep them cropping, and arrange for someone else to pick and use them if you are away.
- ■ Keep wear and tear to a minimum on lawns browned by drought. Water only those areas which would otherwise be worn away by the passage of feet. Withold fertilisers and selective weedkillers when dry.
- ■ Give dahlias secure stakes tall enough to take them through to the end of the season, and tie them loosely.
- ■ Cut wildflower and meadow grass this month, taking off all the clippings to reduce fertility and encourage wildflowers. Ensure that the plants you want to encourage have ripened their seed.
- ■ To encourage flowering, withold water completely from Christmas cacti for a month, and put them in a shady place to rest. *Some shrivelling may occur.*

THE GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Freshen up: applying water direct to the compost in hanging baskets avoids crushing flowers

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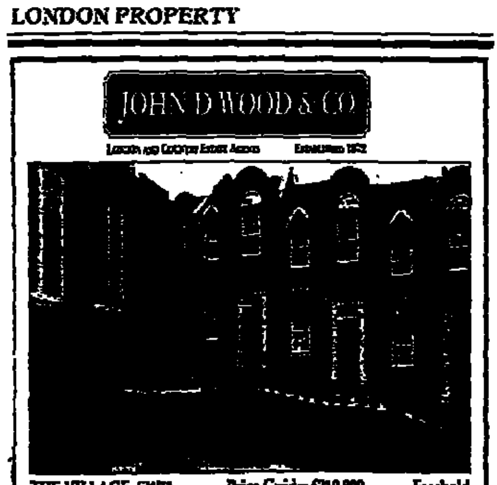

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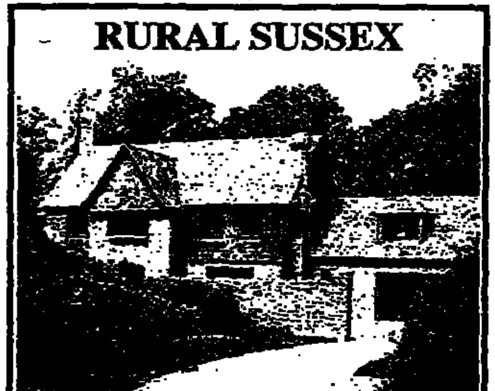

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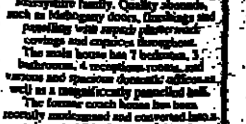

Within a site in excess of 1 acre. "Ardavon" was built circa 1908 by a well known and long-established Morayshire family. Quality abounds, such as Mahogany doors, finishings and panelling with superb plasterwork covings and cornices throughout. The main house has 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, and various and spacious domestic offices as well as a magnificently panelled hall. The former coach house has been recently modernised and converted into a substantial 2-bed cottage which is suitable for provision of extra income, as a holiday home or staff quarters. Offers in the region of £215,000
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هكذا من الأصل

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A Queen Anne mansion with a chapel and romantic folly: just the house for a footballer

DES JENSON

Transfer list: Colin Lee and his wife Linda are moving on to new pastures after spending more than £200,000 renovating 38-room Hanch Hall

Time to move the goalposts

If you are in the vicious business of pigeonholing people, then footballers, like politicians, hairdressers and trainspotters are easy, lazy prey. Smirk at their glamour-model girlfriends, raise your eyebrows at their mock-Tudor mansions and tut-tut at the mahogany finish on their reproduction dining-room suite.

Happily, Colin Lee — ex-Chelsea and Spurs striker, now assistant manager of Wolves — is safe from such naive reductivism. Lee is the exception that does not prove the rule; he does not wear sheepskin, smoke didgeridoo-sized puffers or have a timeshare in Portugal.

He lives in a 38-room, Grade II listed, Queen Anne-fronted manor house near Lichfield, Staffordshire, subtly restored by him, his wife Linda and two well-chosen interior designers. What is more, he is charming, articulate, relaxed and may well be The Nicest Man in Football.

Sitting with Lee in his blood-red, oak-lined billiard room — where he and his 15-year-old son Marc seem to spend a lot of their time — despite the football memorabilia tucked away in the cabinets surrounding us, pitch talk is quickly substituted in favour of DIY tips.

He and his wife have spent more than £200,000 on the house, and when push comes to shove, although Lee is far too much of a gentleman for that sort of behaviour, it becomes obvious that he would rather be insulating the roof, attending antiques auctions, digging in the garden or feeding his peacocks than discussing the form of the Wolves youth team.

The Lees have been at Hanch Hall for about 19 months. They bought the property for £600,000 and it is now on the market at £900,000. Having put in so much work they are sad to leave but feel they would prefer somewhere smaller. It has not been an easy decision: "We sat down with the children and discussed why the time was right" he says.

Lee is a family man and Hanch Hall is a family home, so he does not have the team to stay at weekends, just regular friends and relatives ("no, that's work, I like to leave it behind"). Although "the guy who does the Wolves' kit comes down quite a lot," he says. Boggle-eyed guests can recline on swallow-you-up sofas in the Queen Anne sitting room and watch *Match of the Day* (or *The Antiques Roadshow*) on the industrial-sized television.

And after draining the best bottles in the cellars (it took the previous owner two days to move his supply), there is no shortage of pillow space for woozy heads.

Stagger up the Jacobean-style staircase, past the stained-glass windows which depict the family crests of the previous owners, and you will find ten bedrooms, some with their own bathrooms and sitting rooms.

An extraordinary Victorian shell collection is tucked away in the newly renovated Victorian wing — "I've been to so many auctions and never seen anything like it, " he says.

At the oldest, 15th-century end, in the William Orme room, the mantels display a fine selection of valuable biscuit jars ("look, this one is great, worth about £150").

The house is set in 20 acres encompassing stables, formal gardens, a paddock, chapel and parkland and tea-rooms, although these are no longer open to the public.

Crawling around the side of the lake is a grand folly: a recreation of Lichfield Cathedral that the previous owners had reconstructed.

It might sound like something Rachel Whiteread would cook up during her retirement years. But nestled, rather like the Lady of Shalott's tower in between the undergrowth, down by the water, it is as quiet, homely and unpretentious as the house itself.

Hanch Hall could never be an essential buy and it is too romantic and rambling to be a necessity, but I can think of worse places to put out my welcome mat.

ALEX O'CONNELL

The grounds feature a 40ft high folly replicating Lichfield Cathedral and its three spires

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Some of Lee's career trophies

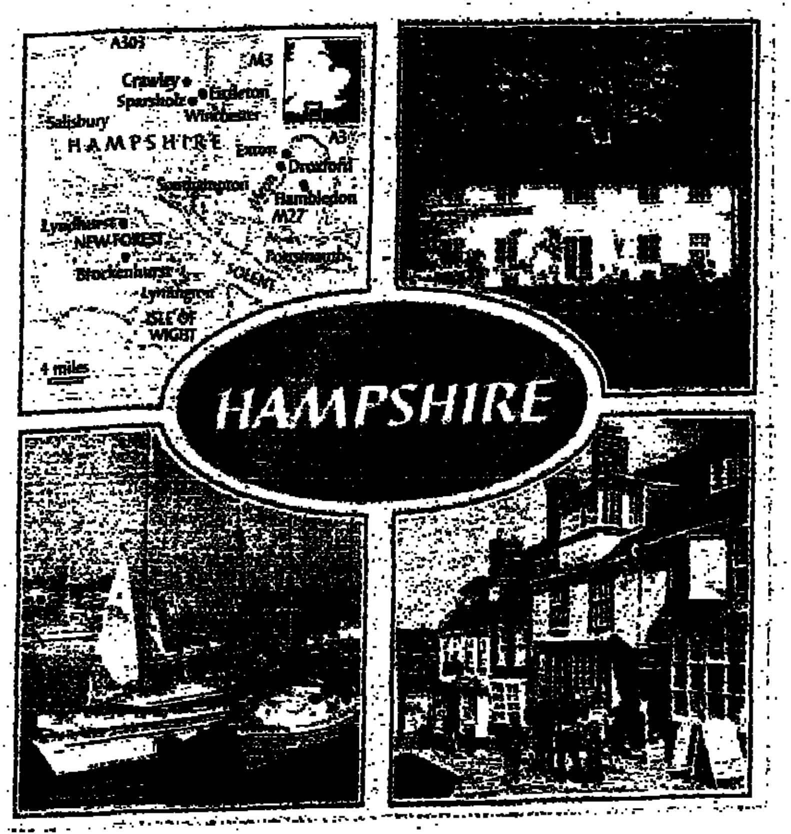
- **Shopping:** Lichfield is only three miles away for supermarkets, 15 miles to the Bull Ring centre in Birmingham.
- **Schools:** Lichfield Cathedral School, Abbots Bromley Girls' School and Repton Public School.
- **Entertainment:** number of golf courses in the area including The Belfry, racing at Warwick, Leicester and Wolverhampton. Good local pubs.
- **Travel:** Birmingham International Airport is 20 miles away. Easy access to M42, M5, M6.

MANAGERS' DREAM HOMES

GERRY FRANCIS, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, pictured outside his house in Bagshot, Surrey. The property was recently valued at £600,000. Francis shares the family home with the other great love of his life, pigeons.

BOBBY ROBSON lives in a Spanish villa among palm-tree lined avenues and only a two-minute walk from the beach. It's one of the perks of being the general manager at Barcelona. The villa is beautifully decorated and has a large swimming pool.

RON ATKINSON, the former manager at Coventry City, lives in style in a mock-Tudor country mansion in the village of Barnt Green, Worcestershire. The beautiful house, described by many as a dream home, was targeted by burglars last year.



PROPERTY PROFILE: HAMPSHIRE

Attractions: Confirmed yachties flock to the Solent, with many favouring villages around Lymington. Commuters benefit from frequent trains to Waterloo — about an hour from Winchester. The M3, A3 and A303 provide links to the Midlands, the North and West. Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst in the New Forest are much sought after, as are Hambledon, Droxford and Exton in the Meon Valley. Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt draw many parents of those at Winchester's private schools.

The market: Prices have risen by an average of 16 per cent so far this year, with increases of 30 per cent in sought-after locations such as villages around Alton, and in parts of the Meon Valley, says Hampton International. Humberts, in Petersfield, says activity has increased by about 33 per cent over the past year and has doubled in the £300,000 to £1 million bracket. Lane Fox in Winchester has 1,000 applicants for properties over £300,000.

Expect to pay: From £200,000 to £300,000 for a three-bedroomed cottage; £350,000 to £700,000 for a farmhouse with some land, and £750,000 to £1.5 million for a medium-sized country house, says Lane Fox. Cluttons, in Romsey, says 90 per cent of its applicants are looking for a period country house with about five acres. Lane Fox estimates that 75 per cent of buyers are from London, and like John D. Wood, finds many are prepared to pay well over guide prices.

Significant sale: Chilbolton Cottage in Winchester, built in the 1930s, has just been sold by John D. Wood for more than £350,000, well in excess of the guide price. A property to watch out for is a modest semi in Little Hayes Lane, Itchen Abbas, near Winchester, home to Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat MP for Winchester. John D. Wood is asking £180,000.

Outlook: Humberts reckons prices will increase by 5 to 10 per cent between now and next June. Lane Fox says interest rate rises and the budget have dampened the market a little.

AMANDA LOOSE

- *Next Saturday's property profile: Norfolk.*

HOMESWAP

What the same money will buy around the country

House-price increases of 16 per cent in Greater London during the past year have yet to spread to the rest of the country. Although prices in the South East are keeping up, the ripple of prosperity begins to falter the further away from London you are. In the South West, for example, prices have increased by 6 per cent, according to the Halifax. In the North, average prices have gone up by only 2 per cent. Some areas of London have risen by considerably more than 16 per cent. "We have not noticed a pronounced ripple effect; Greater London is atypical," a Halifax spokesman says. "And we anticipate that in 1998, as the supply of houses increases, prices will subside a little."

This refurbished one-bedroom charming pied-a-terre in Rutland Street, London SW7, will set you back £375,000. (Keith Cardale Groves, 0171-581 0155.)

Or you could buy Scargill Lodge (£375,000), a classic six-bedroom, four-bathroom country house in 4.5 acres on the edge of the moors, near Barnard Castle, Co. Durham. The price includes a self-contained cottage, a range of stables and outbuildings and a tennis court. (Strutt & Parker, 01423 561274.)

For the same amount (£375,000), you could buy South Yarde Farm, an historic Grade I listed medieval farmhouse in 136 acres of agricultural land and woodland, near South Molton, north Devon. It comes with dairy, pump house, former cider house, former stables, a range of Grade II listed traditional farmbuildings and a modern covered yard. (Strutt & Parker, 01392 215631.)

CHERYL TAYLOR

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A stylish Parisian home is for sale

A mansion fit for a prince

Walking around Neuilly, it's easy to see why King Louis Phillipe of France — the 18th-century Orléans monarch — preferred its leafy calm to the more solemn atmosphere of the Tuileries.

The solid, gracious *hôtel particulier* (mansion) I had come to see would have appealed to him. It is certainly priced at a princely sum: Fr90 million (about £9 million).

Built in 1855 just after Napoleon III came to power, it is set in about an acre of grounds. Three sides of the house are surrounded by gardens and grottos but the back, with its grand terrace, is overlooked by an apartment building.

The ceilings on the ground floor are about 16ft high. Even on the third floor the ceiling heights are impressive, at least 10ft. The reception rooms have *trompe-l'oeil* ceilings. One could imagine *belle époque* couples sweeping through them. The drawing room had recently been used for a party. A sparkly disco ball was still suspended from the chandelier.

The house is no longer furnished, so the bedrooms reveal little of their former incumbents, though it became clear that the recent event may have been a Hong Kong handover party. This was less my intuition than the presence of a 6ft-long paper dragon on the floor of one of these rooms amid other Sino-ephemera. Other rooms had teetering piles of magazines from the 1930s.

Whoever buys the house must maintain its residential status, because there is no option for corporation use. It would make a good embassy or official residence with some imaginative tree transplanting to screen it from the apartment block.

KATHERINE BERGEN

● *Agent: Sotheby's International Realty (0171-314 4443).*

About £9 million will secure this magnificent house

Bargain time for French leave

Housing on the other side of the English Channel has never been so affordable

Property prices are plummeting in France, at least for British buyers, thanks to the strength of the pound which has gained about a third in value against the French franc in a year.

The French house market is still in recession, so owners are keen to sell and there is little competition from local buyers. A studio on the Mediterranean, a rustic cottage inland or a *pied-à-terre* in Paris can be had for little more than the price of a second-hand car, according to *International Living*, a newsletter which reports on property bargains around the world.

For £10,000 you can buy an 18sq m (about 21.5sq yd) studio in a modern purpose-built block on the Mediterranean at Cap d'Agde, a lively harbourside resort in the Languedoc between Sète and Beziers, which is popular with yachtsmen.

"It might be small but it is immediately habitable and an ideal *pied-à-l'eau*. A similar flat around St Tropez could cost £100,000," says Nigel Paige, of the agents Authentic France, which has a selection of studios, one-bedroom flats and two-bedroom town houses for sale at Cap d'Agde. Larger studios, with a balcony or garden on the seafront, can be had for £15,000. One-bedroom flats with a mooring alongside cost about £40,000 and two-bedroom terraced houses with a mooring at the bottom of the garden from £50,000.

"The mooring alone is worth £10,000," says Mr Paige. "Sailing yachts are 20 per cent cheaper in France than the UK," he says. "A 30ft, 15-year-old yacht in good condition can be had for about £15,000. You could even buy a yacht and a one-bedroom flat with a mooring on the Mediterranean for only £55,000."

There are bargains, too, in the capital. With Paris only three hours from London by Eurostar, a *pied-à-terre* in the city of romance can be had for less than you might think. A small flat near the Gare du Nord, the Eurostar terminal, can be picked up for £25,000 to £35,000. One-bedroom apartments cost from £35,000 to £60,000; two-bedroom ones from £70,000. Some of the flats might be a bit seedy, but it *is* central Paris. The cheapest area to the east of the Gare du Nord, in the 10th *arrondissement*, is less salubrious.

The neighbourhood improves to the west, on the border of the 9th *arrondissement*, where there are small shops, restaurants and cafés.

Most of the flats are in large 19th-century buildings of varying elegance and dilapidation, with high ceilings, French windows and balconies. On the Right Bank, the 16th *arrondissement*, in the west of the city is a fashionable area, its wide, tree-lined avenues lined with 19th-century *belle époque* buildings. Here you can buy a 24sq m ground-floor studio in a refurbished building, near the River Seine, for £50,000. One-bedroom balcony flats (31-35sq m) overlooking a garden cost from £75,000 to £96,500, through Thorncliffe Properties.

Ken Morrison, a lawyer with Parisian notaries Le Breton & Associés, has access to a computerised network offering more than 145,000 properties throughout the country. The firm, which is represented in Britain by the French specialist agency Latitudes, also offers a complete legal service to British clients. Alternatively, the property search agents Paris Property Options will help you seek out the pad of your dreams for an upfront fee of £100 and 3 per cent of the purchase price.

Those seeking a cheap rustic retreat might fancy the Mayenne, an unspoilt farming region about 90 minutes by car south of the port of St Malo. A habitable two-bedroom village house can still be found from £15,000 or a restored three-bedroom farmhouse from £30,000, in half an acre, just over two hours from the port of Caen (Ouistreham), through Vivienne Bridge of North and West France Properties.

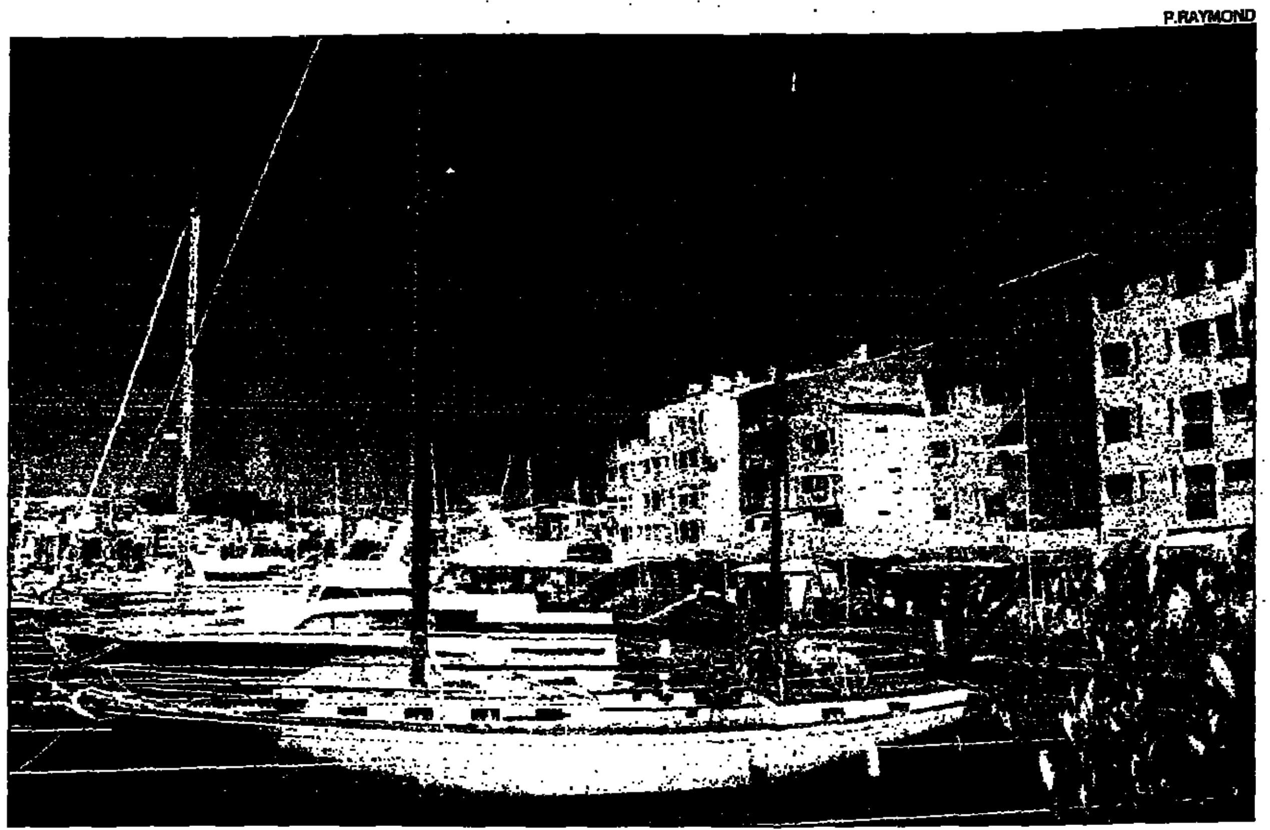
Further south, the Haute Vienne, is a little-known region, close to the Dordogne, but half the price. It is full of lakes and forests and grazing Limousin cattle. Stick to the southern border with the Dordogne for a warmer, drier climate.

The French Property shop is asking £8,500 for two adjacent cottages in a small hamlet ten miles from the Dordogne. You would need to install a septic tank at a cost of £2,000, plus £15,000 to restore both properties.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● *Authentic France, 01258 821372; North and West France Props, 0181-891 1750; French Property Shop, 01892 852449; Thorncliffe Props, 01993 812171; Latitudes, 0181-958 5485 and International Living, 0171-447 4018. French conveyancers in Britain: Anthony Wilkin of Thrings & Long 01225 448494 and Stephen Smith of Prettys Solicitors, 01473 232121.*

P.RAYMOND



One-bedroom flats and two-bedroom houses at Cap D'Agde on the Mediterranean coast cost from £10,000

BEWARE THE PITFALLS

BEFORE you rush off to buy that French retreat, "crying out for conversion and going for a song", a word of caution from Adrian and Lulie Webb, from Corsham, Wiltshire, who bought a second home in the Loire.

Mrs Webb explains: "We bought our manor house with granary and outbuildings in 1989. We intended converting it into apartments to sell off keeping the granary for ourselves. After spending over £50,000 on the conversion, we discovered there is no ready market for such properties in rural France. We were left with the unsold flats, an expensive French mortgage and a property that was larger than we needed."

The Webbs bought their house and then found out about French wills and inheritance tax. They formed a *société civile immobilière* (SCI) — a French property-owning company which has the advantage of avoiding inheritance laws and making it easier to transfer ownership to children.

"We didn't use a solicitor and we lost a lot of money. Transferring our property to an SCI cost £5,000, a sum we could have saved if the house had been bought through one of these companies," says Mrs. Webb.

HOW TO BUY

NEVER skimp on legal advice. The *notaire* is a public official whose job it is to ensure that the sale transaction is carried out in accordance with French law. One *notaire* can represent both parties, but British purchasers who wish to ensure their own interests are protected can appoint their own. This need not cost any more, as the fixed fee of just under 1 per cent of the purchase price, is divided between the two *notaires*.

There are a number of British-based solicitors who can advise on French conveyancing. On average, the fee is likely to be around £600 to £800 for the entire transaction.

PURCHASERS pay a deposit of 10 per cent of the purchase price on signing the preliminary contract, which is legally binding. Should the seller attempt to back out, he can be sued for breach of contract; if the buyer tries to pull out, he stands to lose his deposit and pay compensation.

Get out clauses may be inserted in the contract, so that if the buyer fails to obtain a suitable mortgage, a satisfactory survey or establish clear title, he can get out of the deal and recover his deposit.

All conveyancing costs, including notary fees, transfer costs and taxes, amounting to around 10 to 15 per cent of the purchase price, plus 6 to 8 per cent for the estate agent, must be paid by the purchaser. Most British agents include their fee in the quoted price.

If you sell your French home within two years of purchase, you must pay 33.6 per cent of the profit in tax. A sale is free of French taxes after 22 years of ownership.

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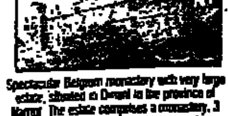

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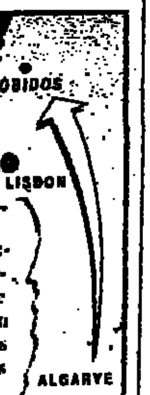

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ALBAN DONOHOE

Secret survivors of the Dutch elm devastation

THANKS to the response by readers of *The Times* ("Join the great elm hunt", June 21), 130 hitherto unknown healthy elms, including one believed to be the tallest in Britain, have been added to the Conservation Foundation's index of trees that have escaped infection by Dutch elm disease.

The foundation suspects the surviving trees may have immunity to the disease which has killed an estimated 25 million elms since the 1960s, and it plans to take cuttings from the best 70 specimens and plant them out as part of an ambitious programme which it hopes could eventually restore the elm to rural Britain. The disease is still endemic and kills emerging suckers when they reach 20 feet, at about seven to ten years old.

Not all the sample leaves sent in by *Times* readers were elm; some were lime and hazel. However, two enormous trees were discovered. Philip Clarkson Webb found the largest specimen so far found in the United Kingdom standing among a line of enormous limes at Leeds Castle in Kent. . "It is in the best of health," he says. "Perhaps the fact that it was surrounded by limes meant the beetle didn't find it. Or perhaps the smell of the lime put off the beetle."

Fergus Kinmonth, a tree surgeon working for the Conservation Foundation, has taken cuttings from another elm, almost as tall, discovered at Castleacre Priory in Norfolk (above) and will be planting them near the parent tree to take advantage of any beneficial environmental factors.

Normally it would be 15 to 20 years before the elms which grow from the cuttings can be presumed safe from infection by the still active disease. However, we may know long before then what sets these trees apart. Thanks to a separate European Union-funded project, these new specimens will be tested to establish whether they do have some innate resistance to disease.

Watch this space — and keep us posted if you find other examples.

● ***Every* Times *reader who helped in the elm survey will receive an invitation to the Conservation Foundation's second annual elm workshop to be held at the University of Sussex on September 12.***

● ***If you know of a mature elm — at least 190cm circumference at chest height (between 1 and 1.5 metres from the ground) — that appears to have survived Dutch elm disease, send details, including grid reference, with a leaf sample to: The Conservation Foundation, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR(0171-591 3111; fax 0171-591 3112).***

ADOPT ME

Amy is house-trained

AMY, a three-year-old black greyhound, is fully house-trained and would be happy in a home without cats or young children, with an owner who has the time to give her a caring home. Contact The RSPCA, South Godstone: 01342 893117.

PATCH may not be able to wag her tail, as it is paralysed, but this nine-year-old Labrador-cross is an extremely happy spayed bitch who is longing for a home with loving owners. Her previous owner moved into a town-house — *hence Patch's move to us.*

Patch can't wag her tail

The image of the loyal, hard-working collie is being destroyed by unsuitable owners, say two experts

Give a dog a bad name

Jennie Booth of the Border Collie Trust in Staffordshire has just been summoned to pick up yet another vanload of unwanted dogs from Wales — two adults and two pups. "You can't find a home for collies in Wales nowadays," she says. "You might well try alligators and get more luck."

Every year Jennie Booth's rescue organisation takes in some 350 Border collies and sheepdogs — Border collies being pedigree strains of the original working sheepdog — and has to turn away the same number. Nationwide, other rescue centres — including those run by the main animal charities — are having to deal with thousands more.

What has gone wrong with this noble native breed so popularly portrayed on *One Man And His Dog*? Jennie believes that both over-breeding and over-high expectations of how readily a dog genetically programmed to work can adapt to life as a pet could be to blame.

"The fact is," she says, "you can get collies too easily. People see them as the one recognisable breed you can get on the cheap. You can pick up a pup at farm gates for £50 with no questions asked. You might think you're getting a Border collie, but just as likely you're getting a collie-type or collie-cross mongrel of unknown quantity."

Quite a few people, adds Jennie, "have this strange notion that collies come ready-trained. They don't appreciate that the dogs they see on TV have been brought on by experienced handlers for years. They also don't realise that, because collies are very active, intelligent and sensitive dogs, they can soon go wrong if not in the right hands.

"They need plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. Something to do and something to think about. And if they don't get this on a regular basis, they'll just go nuts."

When collies "go nuts", it seems, they can do so quite spectacularly: ripping up home fittings, displaying frustrated bouts of aggression and hotly herding and pursuing, in the absence of sheep, any other moving target from a Lada to a lawnmower.

When this happens with pet collies, despairing owners often turn to Barbara Sykes, in Yorkshire, for expert advice. Barbara, who runs the Mainline Border Collie Training Centre as well as her own sheep farm, has bred and worked thousands of collies over the past 30 years. Now she is much in demand to sort out collies brought to her as "problem pets".

Barbara believes that a successful, wall-adjusted pet collie is "about 60 per cent to do with good breeding and 40 per cent to do with good ownership". But, she adds: "With nearly all the dogs I see, it's the owners who are the problem. I've had owners who have spent a fortune on behaviourists, or who have had the dogs on beta-blockers to calm them down.

"They seem surprised when the problems can be solved by something as straightforward as a change in diet and better basic training."

Collies, agree Jennie and Bar bara, can be uniquely rewarding when their work-driven psyches are understood and their physical and mental needs are adequately met.

Not only is early training for these very bright and strong-willed dogs essential, they say, but the need to convey effective but never aggressive leadership.

As with all dogs, the ones with best family pet potential are likely to have been raised in a domestic environment where there was plenty of early socialisation with other people, children and dogs. The dog's parents should have neither nervous nor aggressive temperaments.

Jennie doesn't think collies suit families with children under five years of age. "All the screaming and running around can provoke an over-excited pursuit by the dog."

Also unsuitable is a home where the dog is likely to be left on its own for more than four hours.

The next couple of months, Christmas apart, are her busiest: "All the people who have bought collie pups off farms on holiday start to get bored with them or decided they're too much to cope with. But they won't say that. They'll say maybe the child has got eczema or asthma and is allergic. Or they can't afford it. Or they're emigrating — tomorrow. That's always a good one."

Often, when it comes to collecting collies, says Jenny, "you can feel the IQ is on the wrong end of the lead".

But there will always be others who will appreciate what they are acquiring: "I've had dogs come to us off farms who've had absolutely nothing in their lives, and gone on to make loving family pets. I've had dogs out of the gutter go on to become top sniffer experts. When that sort of thing happens it makes you feel good — like what you're doing is ultimately worthwhile."

CAROL PRICE

● *The Border Collie Trust (01889 577059) continually needs new homes for dogs and funding support. Barbara Sykes, at the Mainline Border Collie Training Centre, can be contacted on 01274 564163. For breeding advice, call: The Border Collie Club of Great Britain (01785 664619).*

COLORIFIC

A change in diet and basic training can change a collie's behaviour

PETS

A vet writes

Q **Recently you wrote about hot-weather hazards and the dangers of over-long exposure to sunlight, but you didn't say anything about drought and how we can help animals — especially wild ones — when it's hot and everywhere is dried up. Would you repair this omission?**

A Water is vital. Life cannot go on without it. It's easy — and inexpensive — to help wild creatures during a drought. A couple of plastic washing-up bowls, a shallow baking tin, some pebbles and a brick is all that's needed. Fill the first washing bowl with water to just cover the brick. This is the big-birds' pond. They can bathe in it, drink from it and then take off from the brick, which is an effective non-slip runway. And tiny birds can perch on the brick and drink their fill.

The second washing bowl is intended for the tiny birds. The water should just cover the pebbles, so creating dozens of little pools an inch or so deep. This will give the small species and baby birds plenty of water to drink, although not enough for them to fall into and drown. Bees will use it as their watering hole too (honey-making is a thirsty business).

The baking tin is for hedgehogs, frogs and toads, the family tortoise and mice, voles, rats and squirrels. Sink it in the soil, so the edges of the tin are at ground level and use a bit of gravel or sand to make a shallow end. Then small creatures can drink, wallow in the water and, if necessary, climb out via the sandy beach. Keep the water levels topped up and, if a lot of bathing goes on, clean out and empty the bowls every few days to remove feathers and droppings.

Q **Our cherished cat died last April of feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) infection. She had been vaccinated against Feline leukaemia (FeLV), but we're told there's no vaccine against FIV. We want to get a kitten or half-grown cat, possibly from a rescue home. We intend to ask for blood tests first, to make sure the newcomer is not infected. But how long will the virus live in the house? All our old cat's bedding, bowls and grooming equipment have been destroyed, but we can't fit new carpets and curtains. What do youadvise?**

A The various feline viruses — and there are several — don't live long outside the cat, and after three months any traces of infection will have disappeared. Infection usually arises from mother cat — either before birth or while the kitten is suckling — or when cats live in colony conditions, close together.

Household pets are less likely to catch one of these viruses. So there's an increased risk of infection in a "rescue" cat, and blood testing would not give an accurate result until a few weeks after infection had occurred. I don't think a cat-rescue home would be enthusiastic about blood tests. No responsible welfare society could rehome a cat known to be infected.

Look for a kitten from a pet cat — ideally from a house full of children. Kittens that have been handled in the first few weeks of life are always better socialised than those born in barns or warehouses. Vaccinate, of course, and don't worry too much. FIV is very rare and FeLV is not common.

JAMES ALLCOCK

Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

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هكذا من الأصل

Holidaying with my parents has made me into the disruptive adolescent that I may possibly have been last time we were all together

I might sulk for ever. So there

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

Oh dear, oh dear, sitting here under the brilliant, enamel blue Devon sky, within sight of the ultramarine Devon sea, the waves breaking in the distance and the sun beating down nicely, I wonder what on earth possessed me to think that a family holiday would be a good idea.

My sister, I know, would have counselled urgently against it, if only I had consulted her. Which I did not, on account of the fact that we have hardly spoken since the last family holiday, some 20 years ago. On that occasion, she took it into her head to wedge open the window of our shared hotel room with my copy of *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, which was then rendered unreadable by a sudden shower during supper. Criminal negligence, said I. Act of God, said she. We did not, I think, actually come to blows, but the incident left both of us with a pronounced aversion to Spending Time With Our Family — until now.

Still, I cannot say I was not warned. On the morning I was to set off for the West Country, my son's godmother telephoned so early that I thought it must be the police, ringing with news of a Tragic Incident. "I wanted to catch you before you left," she said. An awkward pause. Then: "You know, if you find you need some time to yourself, there is always our cottage. It's quite close. You could pop over and see your parents and Alexander every day, if you wanted."

"What a kind thought," I said, laughing dismissively. "But I'm sure it won't be necessary. Alexander adores his grandparents. It'll be lovely, you'll see."

"Hmm," said my son's godmother, who knows me better than I do myself. "Here's the caretaker's number, just in case."

In the five years since we have been taking holidays together, my son has proved an ideal travelling companion. Unlike the various adults who have from time to time joined us on vacation, he is not subject to car sickness, sun stroke, mood swings, irrational fear of wasps or a tiresome obsession with culture. Still, brilliantly successful as our joint excursions have been until now, the motto of the Shilling family has always been "you're not here to enjoy yourself".

Blood will out, you know, and I suppose I must have felt it was time for Alexander to experience for himself some of the things that have left my sister and myself with such indelible memories of our childhood holidays — the thunderous rows, the impenetrable sulks, the Borgia-like shifting of inter-family alliances. Rather less altruistically, it had occurred to me that while Alexander's attention was occupied by his grandparents, whose tolerance for reading aloud from the vapid adventures of *Thomas The Tank Engine* far exceeds my own, I might get on with the novel by Nicholas Mosley which I began in the summer of 1991 and have since had no opportunity to finish.

The one thing I had not realised when, months ago, I set in motion the plans for what struck me as a masterpiece of enlightened self-interest, is that the relationship between your parents and your child is nature's ingenious method of punishing you for your own failures as a parent and deficiencies as a child. Left to ourselves, my son and I are accustomed to regard me as a very considerable figure — an authority on all sorts of things, from the workings of the solar system ("so the Sun goes round the Earth, you see, like this") to the supplies carried by Scott of the Antarctic on his famous expedition ("lots and lots of lovely fruit and hardly any sweeties at all and he always ate up the yellow bits of his eggs").

However, my parents (or grandma and grandpa, as these days I seem to call them) appear oddly disposed to treat me as the feckless and disruptive adolescent that I may possibly have been last time we were all on holiday together. What they do not seem to realise is that, in the course of the ensuing two decades, I have turned into a grown-up, just like them.

Now, it is true that the manner of my arrival at the cottage may have been less than ideal — what with my parents being such demons for a nice early night and my departure from London having been unavoidably delayed until gone tea-time by a long lunch and an animated discussion of the England collapse at Headingley. I can see that being woken at midnight by the sound of me pounding irritably on the door may have been the cause of some consternation.

And probably my greeting should have included some kind of apology rather than a bitter complaint about the mud on the black satin ballet shoes I had bought that morning in a sale.

It was also jolly unlucky that, just as the whole house had settled back to sleep, it should have been woken again by the Devon police asking, very courteously, if I would kindly move my car which I had somehow parked so that it was blocking emergency access to the entire valley.

But this is the kind of unfortunate combination of circumstances that could befall absolutely anybody, and I feel very strongly that the words "dizzy" and "completely hopeless" were quite inappropriate in the context. So inappropriate, in fact, that I am now going to my room to play my Leonard Cohen tapes really, really loudly. And I think I shall slam the door once or twice as well, just to show the extent of my displeasure. I am not coming out until tea-time, you know. Or maybe even supper-time. In fact, if I hear Alexander say "silly mummy" once more, I might even not come out ever again. So there.

Bring back the school nit-picker

The return of an old problem has everybody scratching their heads

REX

Inner city schools have been plagued by an infestation of head lice which struck in winter and has carried on into the summer months

Westminster is a strange conspiracy. An MP can be the most publicised figure in the land, loved or loathed by millions, but once past the policemen guarding the heavy swing doors that admit to the Commons, no special heed is paid to members as they queue indifferently for cups of tea or an order paper.

Except this week, when I have noticed MPs, new and old, Labour and Tory, doing a slight swerve or keeping a little distance from me as I bustled about my business. Was it something I had done?

My speeches so far this parliament have been on issues like helping exports, freedom of information and international economics. They were made to a largely empty chamber leaving the nation wholly indifferent.

My only mentions in the national press were to do with plutonium flights over my constituency and my opposition to the BBC's attempts to dumb down Radio 4 by messing about with *Yesterday in Parliament*.

I wear no after-shave and although Matthew Parris, every MP's compulsive read, has commented more than once on my lack of colour co-ordination, my suits, shirts and ties are conventional. So why were my colleagues taking care to avoid me?

The answer is that I mentioned the word "nits" in Parliament. "A louse in the locks of literature" was one 19th-century insult exchanged between writers and to raise the subject of head lice in the Commons was to shake the sensibility of Honourable Members to the core.

In an anodyne exchange with Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, about the need for better medical education in schools, I mentioned that the country has suffered from a plague of head lice and nits in recent months.

Both Frank and I are, in the popular cliché, follicly challenged, and in my case the attentions of the excellent Commons' barber, Mr Stephen Silverne, have ensured that there is very little hair on my head for any louse to nestle in. But I have watched with irritation as my daughters have returned home month after month infested with nits.

Their primary school in inner London is excellent, with a dynamic head whose leadership in setting academic standards and pastoral care cannot be faulted. But he also has been driven mad by a plague of nits which arrived in mid-winter and has carried on until the summer holidays.

I have come home to see the girls sitting with greasy muck on their hair and a towel around their shoulders as my wife grimly combs through their hair searching for the tiny white eggs. Both she and I have shampooed our own hair with anti-nit shampoo.

Yet within a week or two the girls — one nine, one seven — would start scratching again. Gently they examined each other's heads searching for the nits and they settled down to the shampoo routine almost on a weekly basis.

I talked to the head, who told me that cuts in funding had made it difficult to get a school nurse who could act as a nit hunter and identify the child or children whose parents were ignoring the letters sent by the head telling us to inspect our children's hair and not allow children to come to school if they had nits or lice.

My wife is part-French and convinced that the weak low-grade chemicals used in the English nit shampoo were not up to the job, compared with the full-strength chemical warfare parents let loose upon head lice across the Channel.

But as I talked with friends who had children I found that it was not simply the MacShane family or one London school that was infected. In my constituency in South Yorkshire I noticed the increasing number of schoolboys who affected an almost shaven head, which is a brutal response to the nits question.

Conservative MPs who send their children to private schools told me the problem was far worse there, so the presence of matrons and the payment of large cheques does not solve the problem.

British parents now work the longest hours in the modern world, so perhaps they don't have time to read and implement the instructions in the lice letters from schools.

But as the reaction of my fellow MPs showed, the very mention of lice and nits provokes a reflex shudder of disgust. How may parents have simply ignored the requests to inspect children's hair and spend the tedious time shampooing and using a fine tooth comb inch by inch?

In his reply to me, Frank Dobson called for a return of the "nit-nurse" to schools and as I sat down a number of MPs said to me: "Well done. It's a real problem and a good job you raised it."

Up to a point. I still think what I have to say on the world economy is more important but if, from time to time, an MP can raise an issue that is actually causing people up and down the country, of all classes, to scratch their heads, then I suppose we earn our pay.

DENIS MACSHANE

- *Denis MacShane is MP for Rotherham and has four children*

TREATING LICE

ALTHOUGH head lice know no class barriers, they are more likely to be found in the hair of old-style socialists than in that of the new Labour, Conservative or traditional trade unionists.

Any preference exhibited by the lice for one political group or another is not related to the victim's home conditions, nor does it imply any lack of cleanliness in the communal brush in the working-men's club cloakroom, but is related to differing hairstyles.

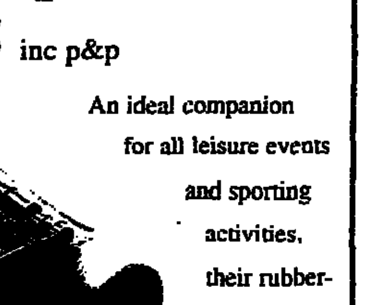
The wild, Byronic locks and beards of the traditional left-wing provide a better haven for lice than does hair which has been clipped and regularly washed by Trumpers of Curzon Street. The shorter the hair, the easier it is to comb efficiently, whereas once the nits of lice are attached to matted hair, they can defy every effort to comb them out. In some areas, infestations have increased from 5 per cent to 15 per cent in the past year and the number of prescriptions quadrupled between 1991 and 1996.

WHEN lice are established, it is necessary to use one of the pesticides, and most local authorities operate a rotating policy so as to prevent the insects becoming resistant to a particular lotion or shampoo. Lindane, which was once the preparation of choice, is now rarely used, because of the emergence of widespread resistance to it by lice, and because there is a fear that it may cause side effects. Malathion and Carbaryl are now the chosen insecticides.

Two other chemicals, Promethrin and Phenothrin, are often recommended, although lice develop some resistance to both. Lotions are preferred to shampoos, because shampoos are not on the hair long enough to be effective. The lotion is applied to dry hair, rubbed into the scalp, allowed to dry, combed out, and then, 12 hours later, the hair is washed and vigorously combed when dry.

Short hair, regularly brushed and constantly combed, helps to keep lice at bay. Lice are infectious, and everyone should realise that the communal brush and comb are as likely to carry nits in the Houses of Parliament or Reform Club as they are in the most rundown inner-city school.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD



The head louse glues its eggs to the shafts of hairs and only thorough combing and strong pesticides will remove them. Doctors' prescriptions against lice have quadrupled in the past years

An enclave where tradition thrives

Ruth Gledhill visits a Victorian church that has avoided change for change's sake

ST MARY'S Walmer is the archetypal parish church which, in defiance of the harbingers of doom in the Church of England, not only continues to exist but is thriving. And, what is more, it thrives without the Toronto Blessing, hand waving and songbook excesses of some modern evangelicalism, and with a liturgy based largely on the 1980 *Alternative Service Book*.

The parish newsletter advertises choir practice, drop-in coffee mornings, teas and bric-a-brac sales. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, a regular churchgoer and sometime resident of near by Walmer Castle, was in church here the week before.

St Mary's is one of three in the group, and there is a healthy rivalry between the churches. Over coffee after the service, a worshipper stopped and said: "Why don't you come to the Old Church, it's really lovely, the Queen Mother was there last year." This beautiful, small 12th-century church is still used for a weekday service, and for candle-lit communion on saints' days.

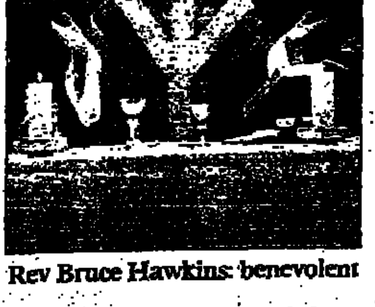
Minutes later, another came by. "Are you coming to St Saviour's for the 11 o'clock?" This, another small and beautiful church, was where Henry Wilberforce, youngest son of slavery abolitionist William Wilberforce, was once curate.

But we were content to be at St Mary's, a large, Victorian edifice atop the town, where the Reverend Bruce Hawkins presides over his congregation like some benevolent patriarch. His curate, the Reverend Mark Griffin, played a prominent role in our service. One of three readers, Diane Deer, was our preacher.

We were in Walmer on a personal pilgrimage to see the latest horticultural creation of Penelope Hobhouse, a 19th-century walled garden at Walmer Castle, the Queen Mother's official residence as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and where she has made annual visits since becoming Lord Warden in 1978. The garden, English Heritage's first new modern garden, is a gift to the Queen Mother to mark her 95th birthday. It will eventually be scented by roses, regale lilies and rosemary.

The church service set the mood. "Let us remember that God is with us now, there is no place where God is not," we prayed. "Help us, O God, to live this day quietly, peacefully, to lean on your strength trustfully, restfully, to face every task confidently, courageously."

- *St Mary's Walmer, St Clare Road, Walmer, Kent, CT14 7QA (01304 366605).*



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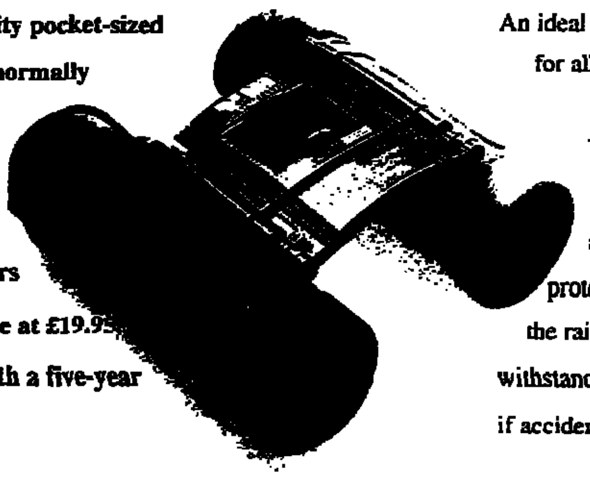

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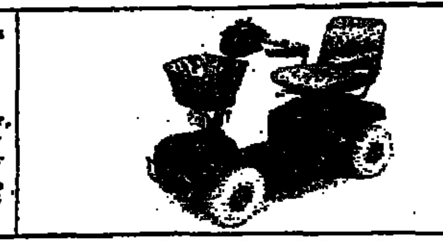

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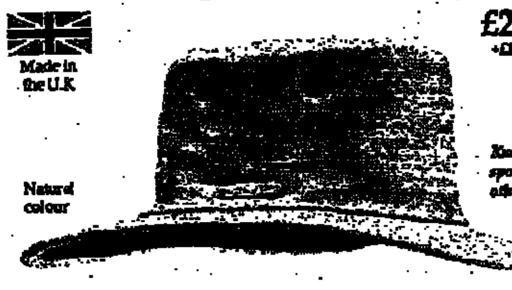

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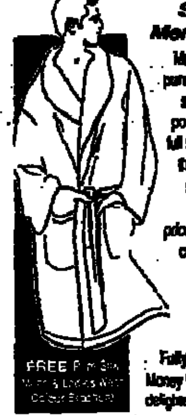

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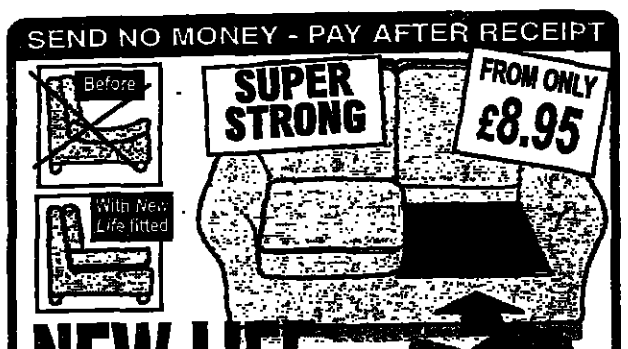

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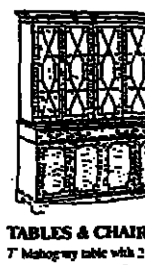

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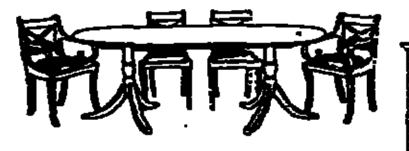

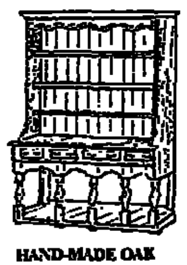

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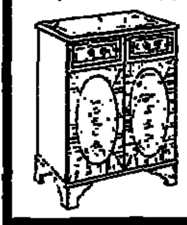

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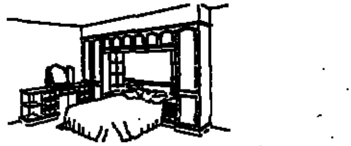

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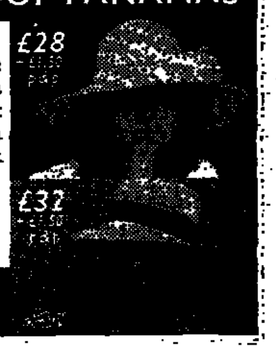

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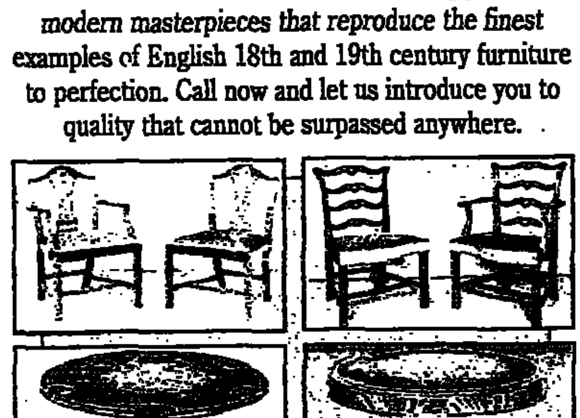

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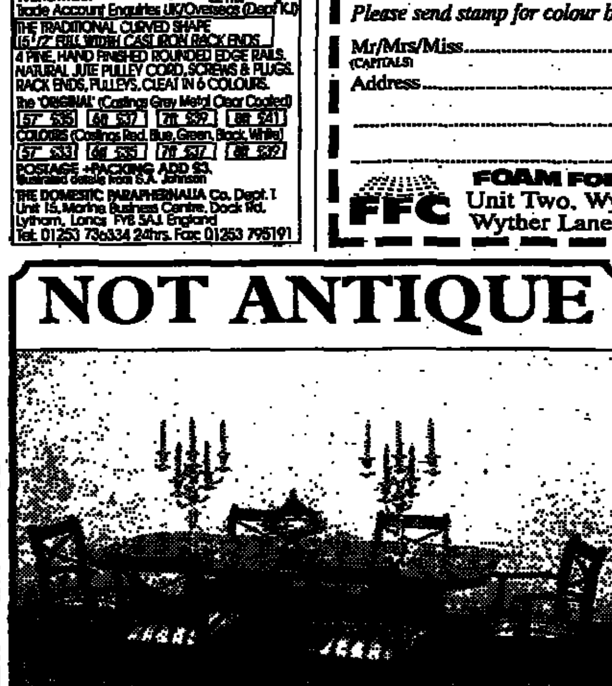

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Emergency ward that treats sick cars with care
Page 12

CAR 97

Girl who gives a plug for a track veteran
Page 10

SATURDAY AUGUST 2 1997

Carmaking simply isn't British

An official Nissan for Tony Blair might cause outrage, but 'Made in the UK' no longer means anything because the real owners are foreign, says **Kevin Eason**

SUNDERLAND ECHO

Kemp: Japanese carmakers have made his constituency boom

As a gesture of support for the British car industry, it would veer between the impractical and the ostentatious. Tony Blair would have to be pictured leaving Downing Street in a two-seater Morgan — hardly the practical choice of a Prime Minister — or £135,000 worth of Rolls-Royce Silver Spur, not quite the image new Labour is trying to project.

But what if the official car waiting outside the ministerial gates was a Nissan or a Toyota? For ministers are ready to bow to a campaign to put Japanese marques on their official fleet for the first time. The decision will prompt howls of protest among the motoring xenophobes who will insist that a nation should boast of its achievements by using official cars which bear only British names. Fine... except that there are no UK-owned mass manufacturers left.

Fraser Kemp is telling the xenophobes that everything a Rover can do, a Nissan can. Putting Japanese marques on to the government car fleet is merely a sad recognition that the nation no longer has a truly indigenous mass manufacturer.

Kemp, new MP for Houghton and Washington East, says: "The British choice comes down to sports cars or models which are so luxurious there is not much chance of using them as daily transport on the government car fleet. Tony Blair could drive a Morgan, but it seems unlikely."

With Nissan's huge car plant in his north-eastern constituency, Kemp says it is time for Britain to recognise that the traditional names have been joined by Japanese newcomers with as much right to be described as domestic manufacturers.

Toyota, Honda and Nissan will be making close to half of all the cars produced in this country by the turn of the century — around 800,000 — employing tens of thousands of workers in their factories and associated suppliers. They buy hundreds of millions of pounds worth of components here and employ thousands more in showrooms and workshops.

Nissan has invested around £1.5 billion in this country and next year could make up to 300,000 cars at Washington — ready to take the position from Vauxhall as the nation's third biggest carmaker, manufacturing almost as many cars as Ford at Halewood on Merseyside and Dagenham in Essex.

There is a huge difference in perception in British minds between Nissan and a company such as Ford though. Ford started manufacturing here in 1911 and undoubtedly claims a place in British history built up over the decades which brought us the Anglia, Cortina, Consul, Escort and Sierra.

> Toyota, Honda and Nissan will make almost half the cars produced in Britain

But national affections have no place in worldwide motoring empires, and British factories are just as vulnerable as a plant in Timbuktu if the bosses in the United States decide they have to make cuts. The special "hands across the sea" relationship lasts only as long as the books balance, as workers at Halewood found out this year when they were told they would not be making the new Escort, the successor to the plant's mainstay model and a car regarded as so utterly British that it seems unimaginable it should come from abroad. But in Ford's range, only the Escort and Fiesta are currently made here: the Scorpio, Mondeo, Maverick, Probe, Ka and new Puma are all imports.

Blair's family transport is a Galaxy people-mover designed in Germany and made in Spain, but because it carries the traditional blue oval badge there has been barely a whisper of discontent over the Prime Minister driving a foreign-made vehicle. Imagine the outraged spluttering over the sherry in the Home Counties if the Blairs had decided they would prefer to take the children to school in a Mercedes M-class. Yet the origins of the Galaxy and the Mercedes are effectively the same: designed abroad, made abroad by workers abroad — and with the profits ultimately going abroad.

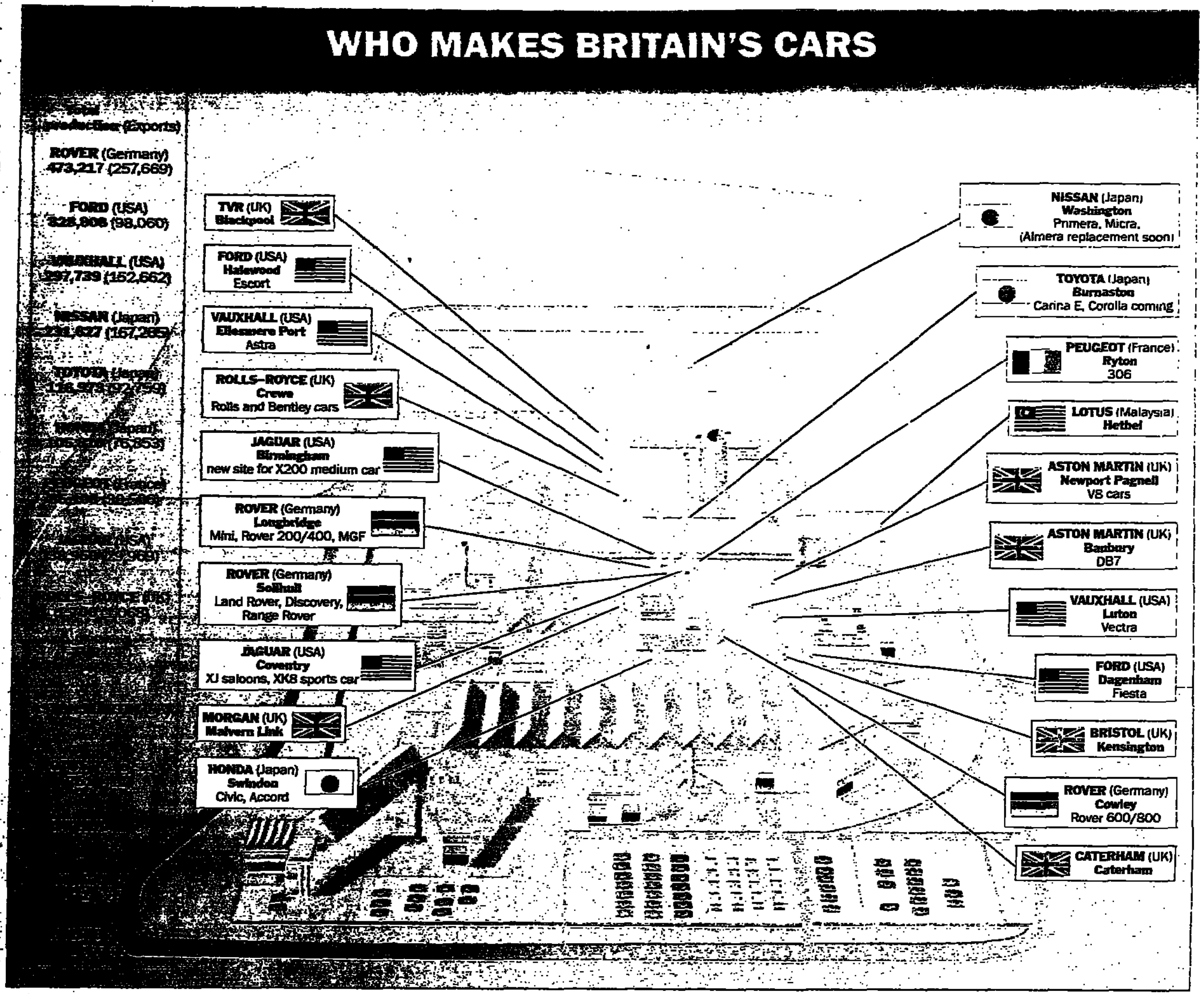
Blair's official car is a Jaguar Sovereign, made in Coventry but by a company owned and controlled directly by Ford from Dearborn in the US. Ministers travel by Rover 800, designed in partnership with Honda but manufactured at Cowley, near Oxford, by Rover, owned by BMW of Germany. The world belongs to the multi-nationals and there is no use pretending that the badge means much any more once the boardroom doors shut and the accountants weave their intricate web around the factories and showrooms which employ 1 million people in Britain.

Jaguar executives had to prove to a boardroom of Americans that UK workers were worthy of building its new mid-range car, the much-vaunted successor to the famous MkII series, in Coventry and Birmingham. If they had failed, Big Cats would have been made in the United States.

Last week, BMW board members in Munich told Rover workers at Longbridge in Birmingham they would be allowed to manufacture the next generation of the Mini — they are the workers who have made more than 5 million Minis over four decades.

Meanwhile, Kemp's constituency is enjoying levels of prosperity and employment not seen since the days when Britain was the world's shipbuilder and steelmaker, only now the area is Europe's fastest-growing motor manufacturing region. He looks around the neat housing estates and thriving shopping centres and understands the contribution Japanese carmakers are making and next week, he will join in the boom and take delivery of his new Nissan Primera 1.6 — made in Britain.

WHO MAKES BRITAIN'S CARS


Total production (Exports)
ROVER (Germany) 473,217 (257,669)
FORD (USA) 328,908 (98,060)
VAUXHALL (USA) 297,739 (152,662)
NISSAN (Japan) (167,285)
TOYOTA (Japan)
HONDA (Japan) (76,853)
TVR (UK) Blackpool
FORD (USA) Halewood Escort
VAUXHALL (USA) Ellesmere Port Astra
ROLLS-ROYCE (UK) Crewe Rolls and Bentley cars
JAGUAR (USA) Birmingham new site for X200 medium car
ROVER (Germany) Longbridge Mini, Rover 200/400, MGF
ROVER (Germany) Solihull Land Rover, Discovery, Range Rover
JAGUAR (USA) Coventry XJ saloons, XK8 sports car
MORGAN (UK) Malvern Link
HONDA (Japan) Swindon Civic, Accord
NISSAN (Japan) Washington Primera, Micra, (Almera replacement soon)
TOYOTA (Japan) Burnaston Carina E, Corolla coming
PEUGEOT (France) Ryton 306
LOTUS (Malaysia) Hethel
ASTON MARTIN (UK) Newport Pagnell V8 cars
ASTON MARTIN (UK) Banbury DB7
VAUXHALL (USA) Luton Vectra
FORD (USA) Dagenham Fiesta
BRISTOL (UK) Kensington
ROVER (Germany) Cowley Rover 600/800
CATERHAM (UK) Caterham

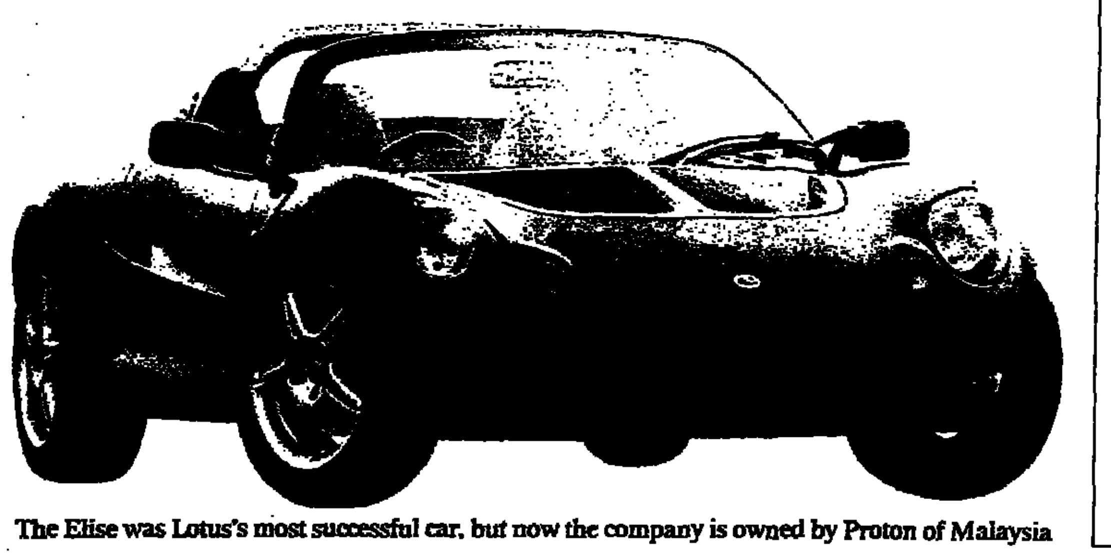
Who's next for the buy-out?

THEY have gone one after the other, like a bargain boot sale of all that is best in British industry. The question is which one will be next at the top of an in-tray in the acquisitions office of a company in Detroit, Munich or Tokyo.

Finding an independent British carmaker is tougher than finding an Englishman in the Premier League. They exist, but as little more than a cottage industry against the backdrop of a massive operation churning out more than 1 million cars every year.

Rolls-Royce is the biggest independent, owned by the defence conglomerate Vickers, but for how much longer? The company is using BMW-designed engines for its next generation cars and, in spite of denials, it seems destiny that Rolls will join Rover as the prestige arm of the Munich carmaker. Lotus foundered, just as it launched the Elise, its most successful car, and is now owned by Proton of Malaysia.

Other minnows, such as TVR and Morgan, have remained family-controlled until now and part of their charm lies in their independence and quirky character. There are dozens more companies like them but too small to mention, from kit car manufacturers to Bristol, a venerable name but now little more than a curiosity on the motoring map on which names appear and disappear as the decades pass, unable to grow from idea to mass manufacturer under the buffeting from the multi-billion pound world of the modern motor industry.



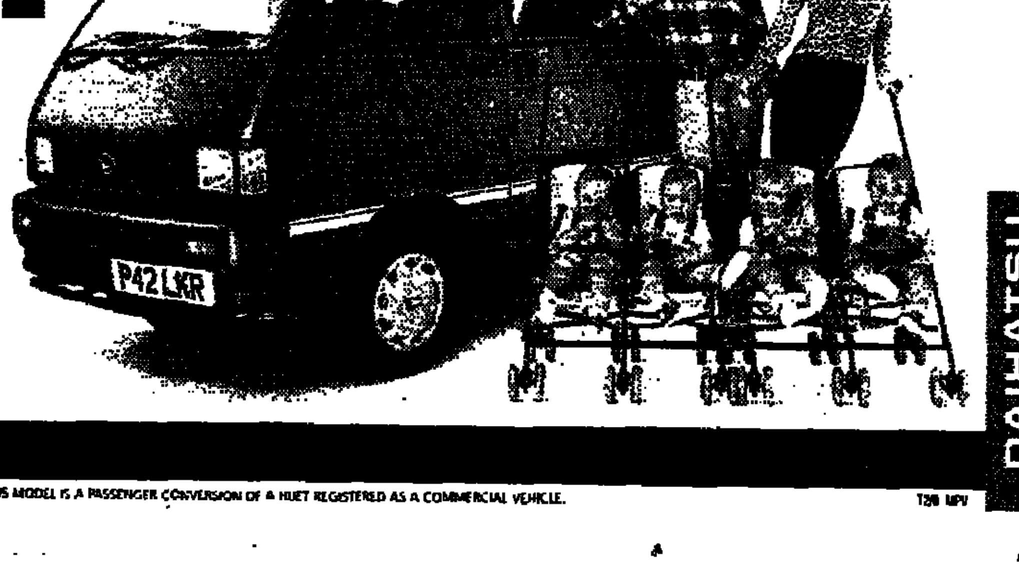
The Elise was Lotus's most successful car, but now the company is owned by Proton of Malaysia

BIKE 97 SUMMER SPECIAL

■ BRITAIN'S bikers are the fastest-growing army on the roads. To celebrate the fun of life on two wheels, *CAR 97* this week begins a summer special of features and competitions.

■ August will be biking month in *The Times*, starting with this weekend's World Superbike Championships at Brands Hatch, where spectators will include more than 200 readers of *CAR 97* as well as Richard Humbert of London who is enjoying a day at the races as our special guest.

■ There is more to come, with scooters — which are rapidly becoming the commuter's favourite transport — and the latest superbike to win over the next few weeks. Start our summer special of biking on page 3.



After passion wagon.

It's the usual story. Boy meets girl. Girl meets boy. Boy and girl, ahem... suddenly need a bigger car. Enter the remarkable Daihatsu Hijet MPV: the perfect runabout for mum, dad and even four kids. It has two sunroofs, five doors (two sliding), plenty of room for shopping, a frugal 1 litre engine, a five-speed gearbox and even a three year or 60,000 mileage warranty. All for only £9,000 on the road. And if that's not enough to tempt you, just think about the four back seats. For more information call 0800 521 700. THE SIX SEAT HIJET MPV.

NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES

DAIHATSU

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDES VAT, DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE. EACH VEHICLE OF THIS MODEL IS A PASSENGER CONVERSION OF A HIJET REGISTERED AS A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE.

Labour has talked grandly of developing an integrated transport policy, but it has done no such thing. Some of its decisions this week are shocking

Wrong turning to tomorrow's roads

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

If proof were needed that all governments are cynical, it arrived with the outcome of the review of the road building programme. A brilliant front page cartoon in *The Times* showed Swampy digging his way into a Job Centre, but I suspect there will be more tunnels to excavate and more trees to climb before this little matter is resolved.

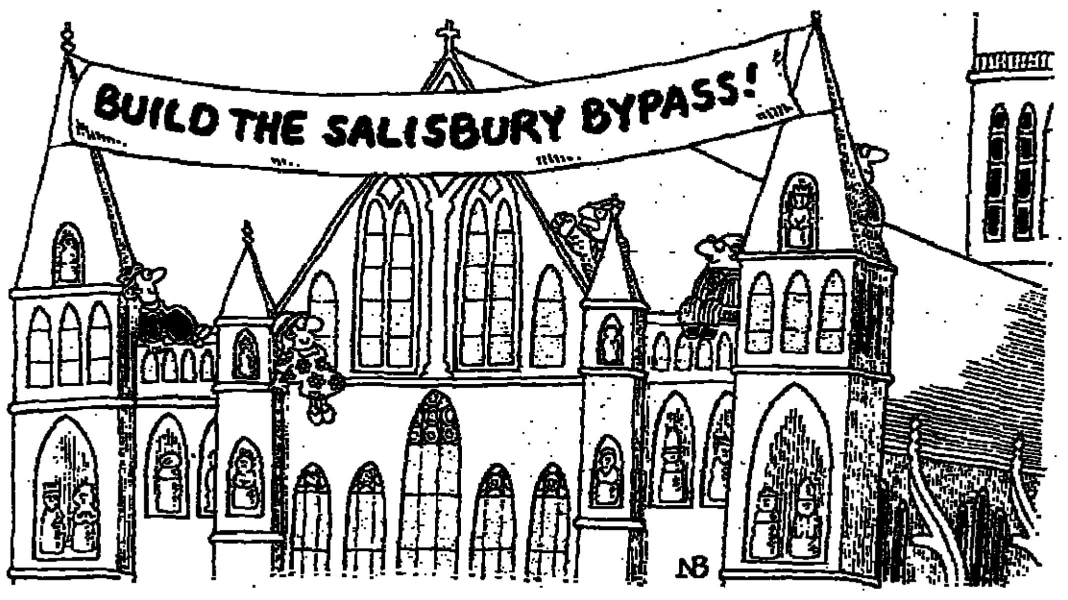
Labour has talked grandly of developing an integrated transport policy, but this week's announcement proves it has done no such thing. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is more evident in this exercise than any other minister. The conclusion that road programmes have been judged on the basis of cost is irresistible.

Some effects of Labour's decisions are shocking. There are heaven knows how many perfectly good homes along the A40 in west London which have been blighted for years by the prospect of a road widening programme now cancelled. The Government refuses to say how much has been spent on compulsory purchase of them.

Somewhere on the airwaves after the announcement I heard it said that the A40 scheme had been scrapped because it would have "encouraged commuting". Anyone who has travelled the route knows what nonsense this is. The A40 needs widening to cope with existing traffic, not some future estimate of demand.

The A40 example illustrates perfectly the muddle the Government is in. Everyone now agrees that predicting future demand then providing the roads to meet it is no longer any good. The car market grows to anticipate an increase in the amount of road space; new roads are out of date by the time they open.

But the A40 and another cancelled scheme, the Salisbury bypass, are not in that category. They were designed to deal with problems that exist now. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister with overall responsibility for transport, knows this. Prescott may have a lots of titles, but Brown's Treasury has lots of clout.



Thus the Birmingham northern relief road now gets the enthusiastic endorsement of the very Labour politicians who swore before the election that they would not build it. Why this change? The fact that the privately-financed toll road will cost the Government nothing to build but would have cost £30 million to cancel may have something to do with it.

Are you planning to visit Salisbury soon? Take plenty of iron rations. Thanks in part to a crazy decision to build out-of-town shopping centres too near the town centre, traversing Salisbury by car is now a bump-and-grind crawl.

The Salisbury scheme's cancellation is a triumph for an emotional con trick perpetrated by the environmental lobby, using Constable's painting, "Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows", as part of their campaign. The meadows in the painting would not have been affected by the road scheme, but who cares about facts?

And who cares about people? The citizens of Salisbury choke on diesel fumes daily, which is why they wanted the road, but apparently the carnation sedge and the marsh marigold — types of grass, since you ask — are more important than human health. Unless of course you think that the Government was even more interested in saving £76 million.

The most damning commentary on this half-baked political sleight of hand came in a television interview soon after the cuts were announced. No doubt *Newsnight* hoped for a ding-dong between Steve Norris, former roads minister and now head of the Road Haulage Association, and a representative of Friends of the Earth.

Not a bit of it. Both were happy to agree that building more roads is not the answer to our transport problems. Both accepted that it would be wonderful if freight moved from road to rail. But both also asked the same question: if roads are not the answer, what is?

There is to be a White Paper on transport next spring. Perhaps that will contain the answer. But I am not very hopeful.

Driving is sexy, but making cars is a turn-off

Leading-edge technology in space age factories can't attract recruits, says **Vaughan Freeman**

Car companies will be the poor relations in the job recruitment league as thousands search industry for their careers this summer. While queues go around the block to become lawyers, doctors and City brokers, school-leavers and university graduates glaze over when the chance of a career in the automotive industry is offered.

Yet British designers are rated among the best in the world and have created a niche which should encourage youngsters to move into design and engineering.

Such are the skills of UK designers that John Barnard was chief designer for Ferrari's Formula One team, while Ken Greenley was headhunted by Ssanyong of South Korea to design its new Musso 4x4 vehicle. The industry is the single biggest manufacturing and retailing operator in Britain, employing 1 million people and using leading edge technology in space-age factories.

Yet Walter Hasselkus, Rover's chairman, says: "When it comes to manufacturing engineering, the British are not convinced, or as dedicated to it, as young people are in Germany, especially in the universities. In Britain, parents planning a career for their children think first of the professions — becoming a lawyer or a doctor or whatever — and becoming an engineer is an option that is way, way down. In Germany it would be inconceivable for a lawyer to be considered above a member of the BMW board."

Daewoo's technical centre in Worthing, West Sussex, is the firm's biggest outside Korea, with a workforce approaching 1,100 and the South Korean company spending £15 million a year at the site on new equipment and facilities to go alongside computer systems and car test rigs already there that are among the world's most advanced.

Finding recruits of the right calibre is proving a major headache for Jim Mason, Daewoo's engineering managing director. He says: "The aero industry is seen as sexy, but the motor industry just is not. We have got to change that. Engineers themselves have to earn the kind of respect that, for instance, doctors have in our society and we have to encourage engineers to become far more interested in their continuous professional development.

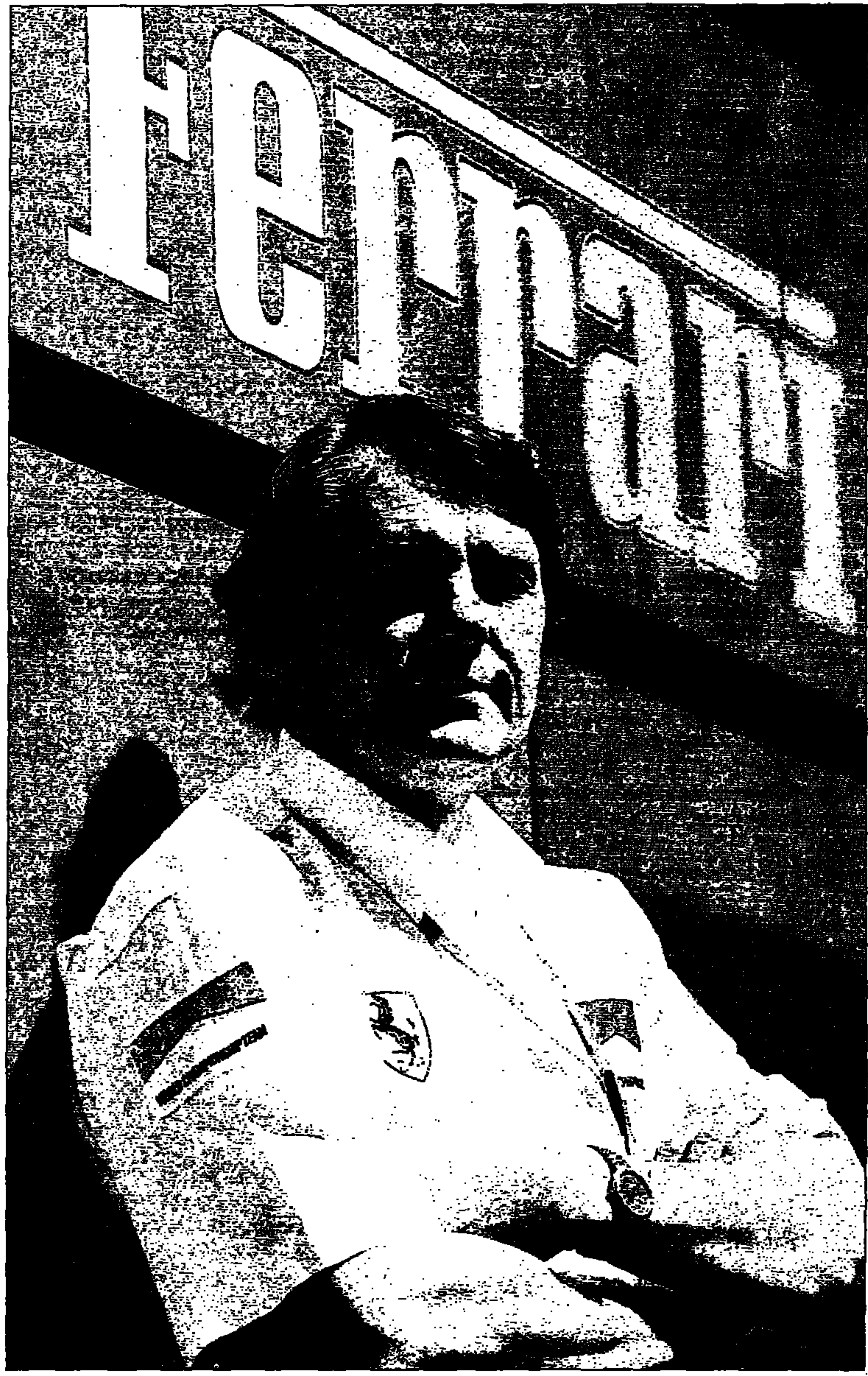
"The car is extremely complex to build and is a very clever machine. Yet all too often, because it is seen as a throw-away item, when you talk to kids at school they don't see it as a high-tech business. But when you bring people here to our technical centre, they are amazed at the work and diversity of work that we do. They have no idea just what goes into designing and creating a car."

To help bridge the gap, Daewoo is working on plans to sponsor college students as well as whole university departments in an effort to extend its research and development capabilities in Britain.

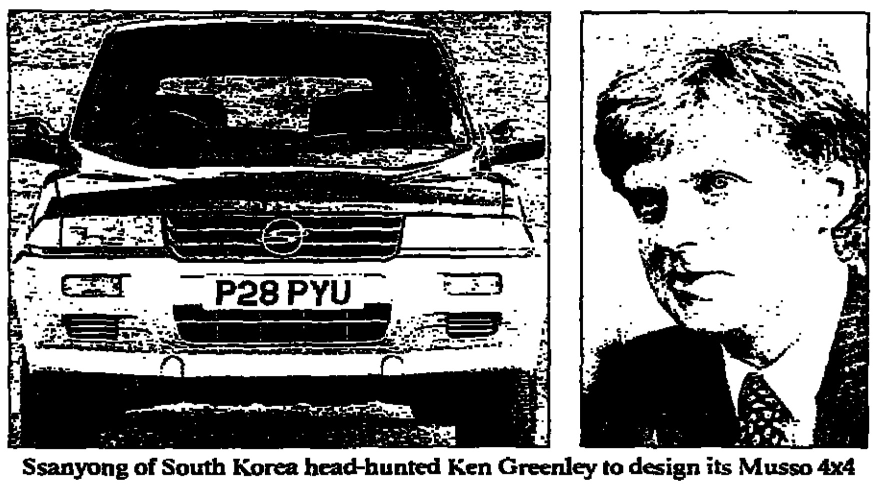
Mason adds: "We want to do projects, for example, on how people bend their bodies, knees and elbows, getting in and out of cars, as well as into the properties of different construction materials and how they can be manufactured for volume car production."

That sounds mundane work but is the sort of technical conundrum engineers and designers have to beat to produce the best cars even before they work on engines, body shape and the gizmos which make our daily lives easier. If those clever engineers are not there, Britain will lose out in the technological race.

But, at least Mason is doing his bit: both his sons have followed his example and now work as engineers.



British skills in worldwide demand: John Barnard, chief designer for Ferrari's Formula One team



Ssanyong of South Korea head-hunted Ken Greenley to design its Musso 4x4

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ WOMEN can't park — according to Velo, the fleet management company based in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. It checked 30,000 accident claims and discovered the cost of the dings and dents suffered by women company car drivers was less than for men, at £559 compared with £561.

But that is because women like hitting "fixed objects", which is cheaper. Hitting things which don't move around much, like lamp-posts and parked cars, accounted for 17.1 per cent of claims involving women, but the figure for men was 13.6 per cent. Women were most likely to be to blame for their prang though, while men seem to like the challenge of whacking things when they are moving or simply losing control and leaving the road.

■ ASTON Martin has enlisted Cosworth Engineering to develop a range of engines for cars in the next century. Bob Dover, who left Jaguar to become Aston's new chairman, wants the Northampton-based company to use its Formula One knowledge to design a new power plant.

■ THE 9-5 model range from Saab will start at £21,995 on sale here in October. The car comes with a choice of a 2-litre 150bhp engine, turbo-charged 170bhp 2.3-litre or the British-built 200bhp 3-litre V6 Ecopower. Standard equipment will include twin and side airbags, CD player and chilled glove box.

■ DIESEL could be 60 per cent more economical, according to *Diesel Car & 4x4* magazine which ran a 1.6 petrol-powered Passat for 760.6 miles on a full tank — a return of 49.97 miles to the gallon. A 1.9-litre diesel version achieved 1,205.5 miles, equivalent to 79.45mpg.

■ WE SAID this would happen, but Ford wouldn't listen. Remember when Ford launched the Ka, nobody knew how to pronounce it — even the bosses couldn't agree. Apparently, some dealers have given up in the confusion over being asked about the Ka and the car, so they are telling owners to ask about their K.A. — pronounced Kay Ay. Ford should stick to Anglia and Escort.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.
A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.
A3212 Grosvenor Road. Contraflow betweeen Claverton Street and Lupus Street.
A2043 Cheam. Single alternate-lane traffic on Malden Road between Fromondes Road and Chatsworth Road.
A24 Morden. Epsom Road down to one lane southbound.
A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.
A312 Faggs Road, Feltham. Carriageway reduced to one lane each way due to long term bridge maintenance at Faggs Bridge, north of Staines Road, between 6am and 5pm.

● **SOUTH-EAST**
A1 Bedfordshire. Roadworks at Sandy roundabout.
A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).
A3 Hampshire. Longmoor Junction, Greatham. Carriageway reduced to one lane northbound between Ham Barn Roundabout and Longmoor, southbound between Griggs Green and Longmoor.
A41 Watford. Eastbound lane closure on North Western Avenue from Hunton Bridge roundabout to Leavesdon Green Interchange.
A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead.
M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.
M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

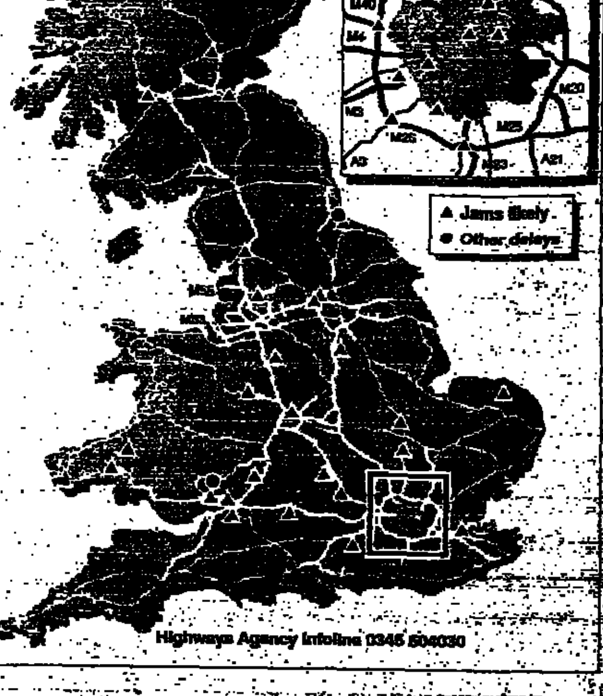
● **SOUTH-WEST**
A38 Old Bedminster Bridge, Bedminster. Major roadworks with lane closures on Bedminster roundabout.
M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth bridge with 50mph limit.
A417 Maisemore Bridge, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
A1 between Alconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with lane closures, contraflow and 50mph limit.
A14 Thorpe Market, Norfolk. Lights at four-way junction with B1436.
A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road. Expect delays between Sherwin Arms and Priory roundabouts.
M54 Shropshire. Contraflow with westbound traffic on the shoulder. Eastbound on to lanes 1 and 2 of westbound carriageway.
A50 Stoke on Trent: major roadworks in the Meir area at junction with A520.
M6 junction 6 Birmingham. Long-term roadworks. Northbound entry slip to M6 closed at Salford Circus. Diversions in place.

● **NORTH**
M6 Cumbria. One lane closed both ways between junctions 36 and 37.
A19 Murton, Durham. Contraflow with northbound entry and exit slip roads at B1285 juntions closed.
M65 between Blackburn and Accrington. Contraflow with westbound entry slip road at junction 7 down to a single lane.
A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, Cleveland. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.
M1 South Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks with 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays expected on M1, M621 and A653.
M1 West Yorkshire, junctions 43 to 42 Stourton to Lofthouse junction. Contraflow and 50mph speed limit.

● **WALES**
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tenerdy.
A449 Monmouthshire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport with major roadworks in place.
A472 Torfaen. Contraflow at Pontypool.
A485 Carmarthenshire. Temporary lights at Dyar Villa, Llanybyther.
A483 Swansea. Major roadworks between Elba Crescent and the Vale of Neath road.
A472 Pontypool. Contraflow between Pontymoile and Heron roundabout.

● **SCOTLAND**
Aberdeen Anderson Drive, one lane each way between Seafield Road roundabout and Queens Road.
A74 Dumfries and Galloway. Lane closures between Greenhillstairs and Gretna.
M9 Edinburgh. Long-term roadworks and restrictions on Newbridge roundabout.
M90 Friarton Bridge, Perth and Kinross. Contraflow.
A737 North Ayrshire. Temporary lights causing long delays both ways between Roadhead roundabout and Beith.



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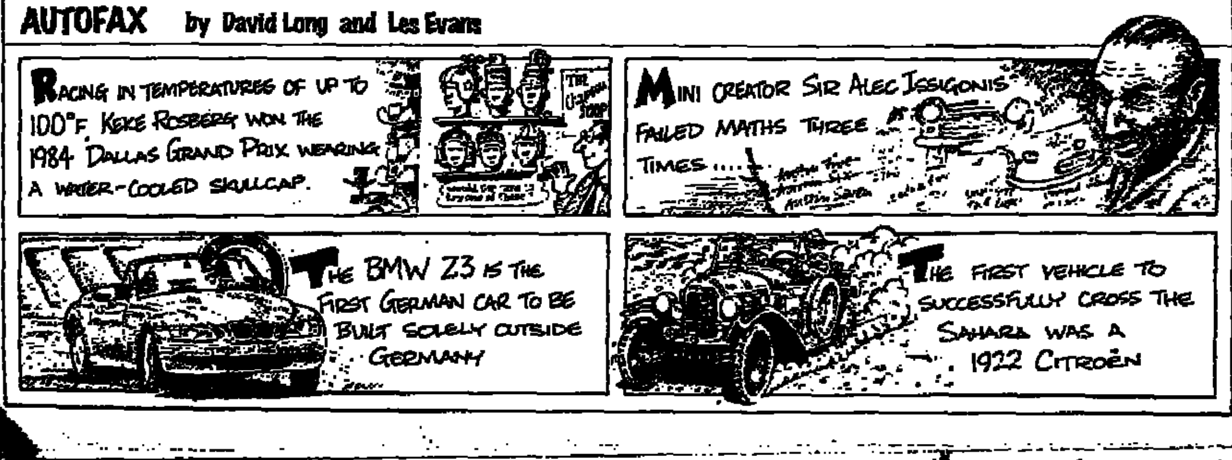
Racing in temperatures of up to 100°F, Keke Rosberg won the 1984 Dallas Grand Prix wearing a water-cooled skullcap.
Mini creator Sir Alec Issigonis failed maths three times....
The BMW Z3 is the first German car to be built solely outside Germany
The first vehicle to successfully cross the Sahara was a 1922 Citroën

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Two wheels come full circle

Motorcycles and scooters are back. **Kevin Eason** looks ahead at the glittering prizes you can win

Everybody's doing it: taking to two wheels for the summer in the biggest craze for motorcycling since the Sixties. Mods and Rockers took to two wheels not just for the sake of fashion, but because they could barely scrape the money together for a vehicle with four wheels, but motorists are now deserting their hatchbacks and saloons for scooters and motorcycles that can beat the traffic and also offer the most fun you can have wearing leather.

Now *CAR 97* is joining the summer fun in a month of motorcycling in *The Times* with stories and the some of the best giveaways in the industry. Look in next week for details of a competition to win the latest Piaggio scooters — and then there is a chance to win the most exciting BMW motorcycle for years.

The bike is so secret that we cannot give details until our competition is launched soon, but this German speedster is the most desirable set of wheels in Britain — and it really is the only one in this country at the moment.

Our biking special reflects the resurgence of interest in motorcycling, which seemed to have all but died out at one time but for the enthusiasts. As the cost of owning a car dropped dramatically, the motorcycle went out of fashion and the famous names disappeared from our streets one by one: Norton, Triumph, Vespa, Lambretta, BSA and many more.

However, the realisation that motorcycles offer one of the quickest, cheapest and most environmentally-friendly ways of getting around clogged city streets is dawning on a new generation of bikers. Sales of two-wheelers have jumped 35 per cent this year on top of last year's rapid growth. In June — traditionally a quiet month for the motor industry — sales were still up almost 40 per cent while demand for scooters soared by 61 per cent.

Stands at the industry's annual exhibition, the Motor Cycle Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham in November are already sold out with 50 firms on the waiting list as huge crowds are anticipated.

And there will be thousands at the World Superbike Championships this weekend at Brands Hatch as motorsport enthusiasts discover that the boys on the big bikes offer some of the most exciting racing anywhere in the world.

The vast array of new models means there is a two-wheeler to suit every size, shape and sex: models start with fully automatic 50cc scooters and rise to snorting monsters with power packs as big as a car engine. And the key figure in the trade — chairman of the Motor Cycle Industry Association — is Monica Dickman, a confirmed biker who is campaigning for more women to enjoy the freedom of two wheels.

So spend August in the company of *CAR 97* finding out why Britain has gone bike-crazy — and take the chance to win some fabulous prizes.

Flying Scott in the tracks of his father

It's 25 years since Paul Smart roared into motorcycling legend. Tomorrow his son will be the star — but Dad will be there as well, says **Ian Morton**

DAVE SYKES

Scott Smart in action: with Paul for a father and Barry Sheene for an uncle, motorcycling came naturally to him. Tomorrow his machine will have a sign on the back — "My Dad's Faster Than Your Dad"

Anyone who even pretends to know bike history would put a finger on it straight away. The day a struggling English rider on an unproven machine built by a small Italian manufacturer took on the world "heavies" and helped to create a modern legend. It was the stuff of dreams and 25 years later it still makes a good yarn.

And an even better yarn when man and bike are about to make a celebrity appearance at a top meeting where the rider's son — astride a modern descendant of the machine his father rode — is one of the stars in a supporting race at tomorrow's World Superbike Championship.

First back to 1972 when a 30-year-old professional rider called Paul Smart was based in California and competing in US races for Kawasaki. One spring day while he was away competing, his wife Maggie took a call from Ducati, then a respected innovator but a minor player on the competition scene in Europe. Ducati needed a second rider to pair with regular works ace, Bruno Spaggiari.

Maggie asked what the job was worth, liked what she heard and found that the dates did not clash with a Kawasaki commitment. Unable to confer with Paul, she committed him to appear for the Italian firm at the inaugural Imola 200 race for 750cc bikes.

"She rang me and said — get on a plane for Italy because you're testing and racing at Imola next weekend," says Paul. "I'm not, I said. You are, she said. Get down there. Then she told me about how much and things were so tight money-wise that even the start money made sense. I knew I was a long way down the pecking order. It turned out they had asked other people — including Maggie's brother, Barry Sheene. But I went. Maggie stayed behind — we couldn't afford her fare as well."

Like father, like son: Scott, left, poses with Paul and shows a poster commemorating the Imola 200 race in which his father made the unknown Ducati a contender

Paul knew why big names had declined the ride. This was to be the first big-time outing for Ducati and its new 750 V-twin, which could rev to 9,200rpm. "From the very first moment, I realised the bike was stunningly good — too good for the Dunlop road tyres they had fitted because it was a 200-mile race. We changed to racing tyres and the bike felt little better and I was still unhappy. But when I got back to the pits, the team was jumping up and down because I had broken the lap record without realising it.

"For a while, Bruno and I followed Agostini on the MV-Agusta but that was a punishing machine and he got slower and slower and we waited and then overtook. I led. Towards the end, Bruno went for an all-Italian victory but ran wide and went grass-cutting. We still got the one-two."

The race speed over 200 miles had been an astonishing 97.7mph with laps of over just 100mph recorded by Smart, Spaggiari, and Agostini. Ducati was suddenly a magic name. Rescued from the track as the 200,000-strong crowd went wild for mementos, the two riders faced six hours of non-stop adulation, paraded around Bologna in a glass-sided truck.

"It was like being the Pope," says Paul. "They gave me millions of lire — I still don't know exactly what it came to in pounds. But Bruno and I agreed that if we got the one-two, we would divide the money equally no matter which order we finished in. And Ducati were so pleased that they gave me the winning bike."

Since Paul's Imola triumph, the bike has been on display in the showroom of his bike dealership in Paddock Wood, Kent. Tomorrow it roars again at Brands Hatch as Paul, now 55, does a couple of demonstration laps — "slow ones because I'm afraid of hurting myself at my age" — before his 22-year-old son, Scott, competes for the Team Alstare Corona Extra on his Ducati 748 in a round of the World SuperSport championship.

With his father and uncle, Barry Sheene, it would have been strange if young Scott had been disinclined to ride bikes. He was second in the British 250 championships and *Motorcycle News* Young Rider of the Year in 1996. He has won four rounds to lead the 250 championship by 26 points this year and hopes his outing for Ducati tomorrow will help his quest for a sponsor and a regular team place in one of next year's world championships.

For tomorrow's event, Scott's bike appears in the original Imola green and silver paint and he wears period-style black leathers in recognition of that magic day 25 years ago when his father and Ducati made their spectacular entry into the top echelons of the sport.

There is however an extra item of livery on Scott's machine — a small sticker on the rear, addressed to whoever is following him closely round Brands. It reads: "My Dad's Faster Than Your Dad."

Foulston: into £10m profit

Brands leader

NICOLA Foulston is turning her place over to thousands of bike fans at the weekend — and she might even pull a few pints, though she runs Brands Hatch, venue for the Superbike championships, *writes Helen Mound.*

The 29-year-old chief executive of Brands Hatch Leisure is well acquainted with the sound and fury of motorcycles, though she has no desire to take to the track.

Her mission is to get more spectators through the gates and more people involved in motorsport. It is tricky for most fans, no matter how enthusiastic, to "have a go" at the sport they enjoy unless they can afford the car, mechanics and paraphernalia of racing.

"Racing is expensive and inaccessible to the public, which is why it's a minority live sport," she says. "It's not like football where the fans can just buy a football and have a go. Organisers are afraid it won't be taken seriously if they make it fun but serious things are rarely popular."

When Nicola took over the business in 1989, it was losing £300,000. Yet her ideas caused uproar. Suggesting Brands Hatch was a business that should make money and not a museum enthusiasts had a right to visit for free won her few friends. But profits last year were more than £10 million, testimony to Nicola's efforts starting activity days and corporate hospitality.

As a child, weekends were for watching racing with her father, John Foulston. His interest in the sport and sudden death in a racing accident led to her being thrown in at the deep end at Brands Hatch. Foulston had built up a £40 million computer company when he bought Brands and three other racing circuits in 1986.

Now Nicola is a hands-on boss packed with ideas — and always willing to learn the hard way even if it means getting her hands dirty. Nicola not only encourages her 140 workers to work in other areas of the firm, she sometimes sells tickets on the gate or even works behind the bar — which is where bikers might spot her in between the action this weekend.

Pablo remains a lone rider in the sun

Helen Mound meets the solar power scooterist seeking a sponsor

It might look like a pizza delivery bike, but this silent runner could be a commuter's dream machine. Sol is the world's first solar scooter.

But Pablo Chappell, a Kent-based engineering-design graduate, says the motor industry isn't ready for his innovative design: "People are quite ignorant about solar power. It will be a long time before it's commonly accepted."

Sol cost £5,000 over four months to build and has a range of 25 miles and top speed of 30mph. Its 12-volt (recyclable) battery takes its charge from solar panels over the rear wheel. An hour of sun provides power for one mile. The panels are disguised as a stylish rear spoiler and the bodywork is finished in vivid yellow. Pablo admits his scooter was expensive but insists the electric motor does away with many expensive parts required by a petrol engine, and mass production would cut costs to much the same as ordinary scooters.

"There's no gearbox, carburettors or clutch and the price of panels and batteries is constantly coming down," he explains. "And whatever extra you spend on the purchase price would be saved on running costs as it doesn't need oil or fuel and servicing is negligible."

Pablo spent 18 months developing the concept after getting the idea working in Los Milinos, a solar-powered town in Spain.

His scooter at least proves that practical, economical and environmentally-friendly city transport is a possibility and could become an alternative to fossil fuel, polluting cars. So why hasn't some environmentally-conscious bikemaker snapped up the idea? Possibly because the silent-design doesn't have the street-cred of the noisy pop-pop, two-stroke scooter and, since when was it cool to care about the environment? Or is Sol's limited range a problem?

"It can only manage 25 miles each trip, but few people travel more than that on a scooter in town. So if you travelled to work, say 15 miles, you'll have energy left for 10 miles. And if you left the scooter outside while you did an eight-hour day in the office, when you leave you'll have 18 miles in the batteries. Overnight it can be charged by electric lights, but that's not as effective as sunlight."

An alternative to the hefty lead-acid battery for solar (and electric) cars has so far eluded scientists and until they crack the problem, Sol is likely to remain confined to short trips around Pablo's home village West Malling in Kent.

Shame though: just think how quiet cities would be with silent scooters on the road.

SIMON TOWNSLEY

Pablo and Sol: "People are quite ignorant about solar power"

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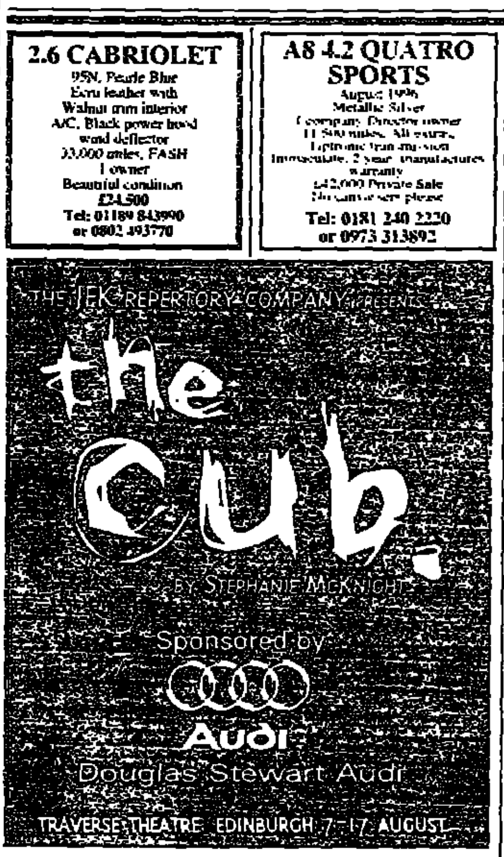
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هكذا من الأصل

Demand for the Mercedes off-roader means you could pay a fortune over list price, but **Helen Mound** has doubts about it

Join the queue, but is it really worth waiting?

They have been sleeping in the streets and jamming telephone switchboards because places on this waiting list are hotter than tickets for an Oasis farewell gig.

If there is a queue, it must be for a Mercedes because this is the company that builds cars you simply cannot buy. The M-class joins the long list of models which will take years to get hold of, unless you either had the foresight to get on to the waiting list early or can afford to pay thousands of pounds over list price for the car of your dreams.

For Mercedes-Benz is sold out. A company spokesman says: "You could probably get your hands on a C-class if you weren't too fussy about the engine and colour. But otherwise all the cars have waiting lists."

More than 4,500 potential UK buyers have registered their interest in the M-class even though the off-roader is not on sale here until autumn and the first delivery will only be 200 cars. But it is the same across the range: if you want the new A-class, then you're in a club with 32,000 other people which means the waiting list could be two year's long at launch next summer.

The SLK sports car is four years away unless you pay a premium for a private sale. The night before the CLK coupé went on sale to employees in Germany, many slept outside dealerships. By 10am next morning, the 1997 order book was full, by mid-day 1998 was sold out and by 4pm no more employee orders could be taken for the car this century. For ordinary buyers the CLK is 18 months away; SL, at least a year; E-class V6 models, 18 months; S-class 3.2/4.2 limousines, six months.

Tom Hartley, the motor trade's entrepreneurial specialist in supplying the unsupplyable, has sold 120 SLKs — 10 per cent of Mercedes-Benz UK's total sales this year — to customers willing to pay the extra £7,000 to jump the queue.

In its first week on sale, he supplied 15 CLK coupés at a £10,000 premium and expects A-class and M-class to uncover hundreds more customers desperate for their car with a three-pointed star.

"We're getting calls daily from people who want an A-class in the spring and don't want to be left on a waiting list," he says.

M-class joins this torrent of demand for a brand which was always acknowledged as excellent but terminally dull. Exciting designs have changed all that and Mercedes's new factory in Alabama is no more likely to cope than its European sister plants making other models. Production at the Tuscaloosa plant will be 270-a-day to satisfy demand, but America will be supplied first — and even the Tuscaloosa workers will get their chance to buy the car they build.

M-class in the wild: climbing agility of a mountain goat

While British drivers wait to see the M-class in the metal, the Tuscaloosa workers already know they are building a winner for the new German off-roader from the US is comfortable, impressive, refined — and frankly, slightly disappointing.

Experienced Mercedes motorists will notice the lack of prestige, gadgetry and stinking-richness about the top-spec model. There are no dual heater/air conditioning controls, double glazing, self-closing doors, rain-sensitive automatic wipers, automatic boot release on the key fob, volume sensitive stereo, rear electric seats . . . need I go on?

These luxury features are in all the marque's other top models. But because most of these cars will be bought by Americans, who apparently think remote central locking an outrageous luxury, Mercedes has decided to be stingy with all of us. But such features become important if the M-class is to succeed in knocking the prestige 4x4 crown off the Range Rover. The 5.5-litre V8 AMG M-class with aggressive bodywork, rumoured for 1999, would be ideal in Europe, but supplies will be even smaller.

Styling is also lacklustre: nothing about the interior says you are driving a funky new Mercedes off-roader — but then little on the outside makes such a statement either. Only the shapely headlamps and tail lights save it from being an also-ran.

Like or loathe the styling, there is a saving grace however: this Mercedes is probably better than a Range Rover to drive. The company has found the most agreeable compromise between on and off-road driving. Gone is the vague steering and wallowy ride of other off-roaders, which are often set-up for a muddy field at the expense of the ride on Tarmac. Yet take it off-road and the M-class clambers with the agility of a mountain goat.

M-class walks up steep mud slides with grace, and with none of the creaks and rattles of a Range Rover, proving it's well bolted together, even though this car comes from the US and not Germany. A sophisticated traction control system complements its four-wheel drive.

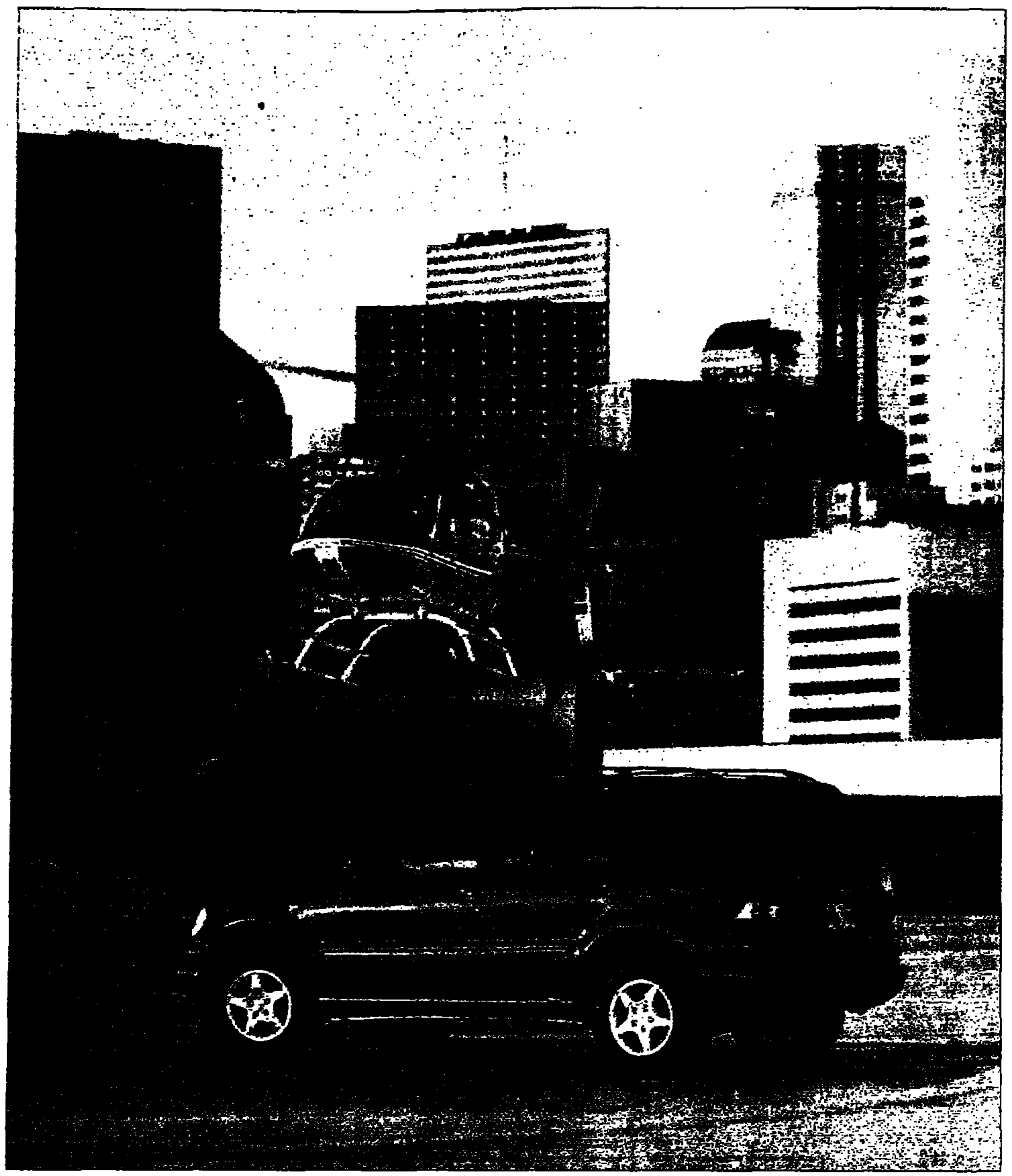
The 3.2 V6 power pack offers impressive engine braking to slow downhill climbs. When its five-speed automatic is slipped into low-ratio first-gear, the M-class tiptoes down steep slopes as if it was anchored to the top.

On the road, steering responses are slow by Mercedes standards but a vast improvement on most other off-roaders, the most car-like of any 4x4. With four-wheel independent suspension, this is an off-roader you can chuck into corners without wallowing about like a weather-beaten boat. And cruise? Like a dream, like a Mercedes.

M-class goes on sale in the US this autumn with a V6 engine, but by the time it arrives here there will also be a 4.3 V8 on offer. A five-cylinder diesel and four-cylinder petrol follow in 1999.

In between, we have to watch and wait for the queues to grow for the newcomer. Mercedes executives here say they have almost gone down on their knees to plead for more cars to come to Britain.

Perhaps the late Janis Joplin's lyrics to a song which is almost the factory hymn at Tuscaloosa seem more appropriate than ever: "Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz?" The way things are, praying may be the only way you'll get a new Mercedes before the next millennium.



M-class in the city: comfortable, impressive, refined . . . but don't expect any of the luxury features on the marque's other top models

MERCEDES M-CLASS

Engine: 3.2-litre V6 developing 215 brake horse power at 5,500rpm (4.3 V8 to come in 1998 and 2.7 diesel and 2.3 petrol to follow in 1999). Four-wheel-drive through five-speed automatic transmission with low ratio and traction control.

Performance: 0-60mph in nine seconds; top speed 112mph. Average fuel consumption, 23.7 miles to the gallon.

Prices: Expected to be between £28,000 and £38,000.

Nissan's estate of the Euro art

Hugh Hunston looks at the newest entrant in a booming marketplace

Estate cars, shooting brakes or station wagons are carving a growing share of the market, particularly in what marketeers define as the D-class sector: the territory of Ford Mondeos, Vauxhall Vectras and Volkswagen Passats.

In Britain the share of sales taken by the upper-medium estate car has climbed from 13 to 16 per cent in a year and is still growing. In fashion-conscious Italy, "wagons" take a thumping 52 per cent. Logical, sensible Germans register 30 per cent and overall the European figure is set to vault from 18 per cent in 1995 to 29 per cent by the end of next year.

The arrival of the multi-purpose vehicle is having an impact above and below D-class where the company driver often does not consider an MPV has the correct corporate image.

Against this background of spectacular growth, Nissan showed the estate car version of its Sunderland-built Primera, due for launch next May. Unlike its Japanese-built predecessor, described bluntly by the new car's stylist Stephane Schwarz as a "utilitarian workhorse with very little image", the successor allegedly blends form and function.

Schwarz, who headed a Munich-based team devoted to "designing and developing in Europe by Europeans a car for European customers", says estate cars have become objects of fashion, making "powerful statements" about who buys them, their lifestyle and leisure pursuits.

The rear comes with conventional, horizontal clusters integrated into the tailgate and the Primera is claimed to be a compromise between the sportier, less spacious estates and the more functional Ford Mondeos. Schwarz emphasises that estate car design hinges on the angle of the rear window. Too steep or upright, and it is stigmatised as a van; too raked and the marketing clinics consider load space is compromised.

Of four design proposals, the Munich team opted for a curved convex, bubble-effect rear hatch, with an overhang behind the rear wheels just over 3ins longer than the saloon version. Nissan concedes that it has 3 per cent less luggage room than its predecessor but says its nominal 1,650 litres of room behind the front seats is 32 per cent greater than Audi's A4.

The company's technology centre in Cranfield, Bedfordshire generated the interior design and while they did not reinvent the wheel, they found a new use for the box. Lateral and longitudinal thinking has rendered the centre of the boot space reversible, turning upside down to provide a sturdy plastic box for muddy wellies and/or dogs, wet clothes, or shopping. Inverted, it also adds 4ins to the load height or depth, which allows for slotting in suitcases vertically.

Cubby holes abound and the rear seats incorporate three inertia reel belts which should not inflict bruised and bleeding knuckles when the 60/40 folding format is applied. A 12-volt power point is built in for a coolbox or power hose.

To be built exclusively at Nissan's Sunderland factory, the Primera Estate should cost no more than £1,000 above saloon or hatchback versions, whose engines and specifications it will share. The Primera Estate's share within the range is set to double from 10 to 20 per cent.

Stephane Schwarz and the new Primera: estate cars have become objects of fashion

Lucy reverses back to the place where she started

BMW Compact: full of quality — but £2,000 for the extras

Kevin Eason

on the search for a new GTi that went in a complete circle

WHAT DO you do when you grow out of a GTi? Lucy Pawson is a long-time admirer of Volkswagen's Golf GTi, but the 29-year-old graphic designer tired of its boxy styling and a look which has been around almost a quarter of a century.

"They have become quite common," she says, "and I need something with quality and performance but which has style."

The brief Lucy set *CAR 97* was to suggest a model which was compact, three-door, sporty, stylish and around £15,000.

Audi's new A3 fell at the first hurdle because Lucy decided the styling and interiors were dull. At £14,411, the 1.6-litre engine only offered 101 brake horse power and moving up to the sportier 125bhp 1.8 meant a £1,500 price jump.

BMW's Compact fared better. Lucy settled behind the driving seat of the 1.6i and decided: "Cute, feels sturdy and full of quality. I want one."

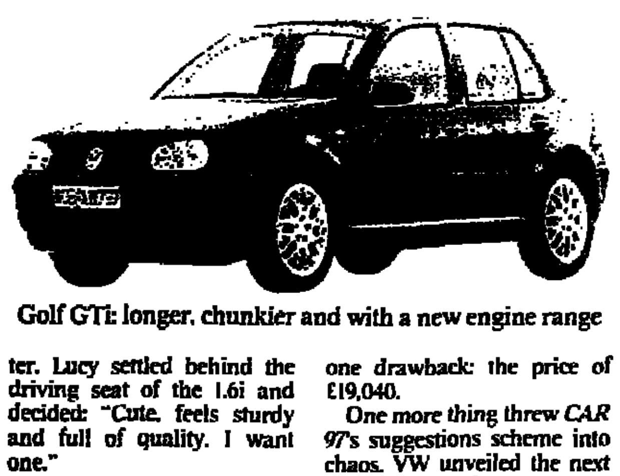
But Lucy discovered that she might have to spend as much as £2,000 on top of the £14,540 price ordering extras she wanted. So, goodbye Compact — though with an aching heart.

In with the Renault Megane, only considered as a cabriolet though. With 150bhp from the 16-valve engine, there was more than enough power to please — and just one drawback: the price of £19,040.

One more thing threw *CAR 97*'s suggestions scheme into chaos. VW unveiled the next generation Golf this week, on sale here in December. Longer and chunkier than its predecessor and with new engines, twin airbags across the range and options including side airbags, the new Golf made Lucy stop and think again.

"That looks good," she said. "I think I'll wait until December and get another Golf."

Typical woman.



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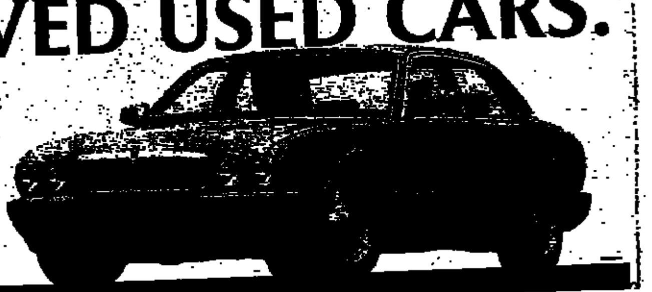

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هكذا عن الأصل

CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

Alfa-plus as the Sparks fly

ROAD TEST

THE REAL head-turners of the Alfa Romeo range are the dashing open Spider and the sensational-looking GTV coupé. They offer performance to match their looks but supplies are limited and for many people they are dream cars incapable of carrying out the family duties that most of us have to face on four wheels, *writes Alan Copps.*

But the backbone of the company's recent revival in Britain has come from the little hatchbacks, the three-door 145 and five-door 146, cars that have been given a new lease of life with improved engines.

Looks have always been on their side in a class dominated by bland shapes, but when they were first introduced with the ageing "boxer" engines, beloved of Alfa enthusiasts but dating back two decades in technology, their performance hardly lived up to the sporty name.

Now with Twin Spark 16-valve 1.6 and 1.8-litre engines, closely related to the top-of-the-range two-litre, they've got a spring in their step again and at a reasonable price. Perhaps even more important to those who enjoy rather than endure driving, these cars in 1.8-litre form now share the same steering as the GTV, with just over two turns lock-to-lock which offers handling of a speed and precision to match the extra power.

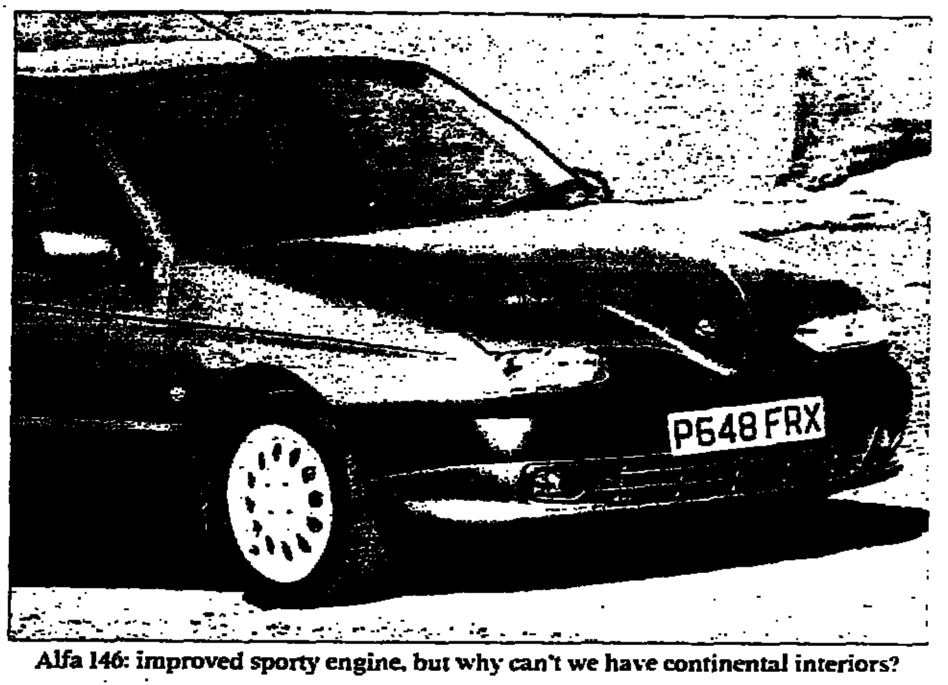
The 146 that I tried showed just how far Alfa has come in recent years both in terms of performance and in build quality. You somehow expect Alfas to have a few quirks, to offer a bit of Italian temperament somewhere along the way, but this car was free of eccentricity.

There was no fumbling to find a comfortable driving position, no squeaks and rattles. The doors shut with a pleasing "thunk", the controls came readily to hand, the engine responded with smooth enthusiasm to my urging and corners came and went without a wobble no matter how hard I hustled the car along.

True, the rear seats are pretty cramped for anyone over about 5ft 6in, but so are those of most cars in this class. The gearshift is much slicker than the old one and the brakes, which come with anti-lock system throughout the range, responded to everything with efficiency. That's the word — efficiency — not always appropriate to Alfas in the past, but just what these cars have acquired. The statistics bear it out: If you make the engine more efficient it's not just more powerful but more economical as well. The 1.8-litre produces 140bhp against the 129bhp of the old 1.7-litre unit, but in urban driving it achieves just short of 30mpg, a 12 per cent improvement on the old car's 27mpg. All this is helped by the Twin Spark system, an Alfa speciality which ensures efficient burning of fuel.

There is only one way in which the car lets down the Alfa Romeo name and that is the interior. If you're in this market and prepared to pay a little more for something with Alfa's name and image then you want it to show inside as well as out. Unfortunately the new versions look too much like the old, an interesting shape marred by acres of black plastic wherever you look.

For continental markets the latest versions come with a much more pleasing cloth trim, but for reasons that the marketing men cannot really explain it doesn't appear in right-hand-drive versions. Why can't we have it, too?


Alfa 146: improved sporty engine, but why can't we have continental interiors?

ALFA 146 1.8

Engine: Four-cylinder 1.8-litre Twin Spark producing 140bhp at 6,300rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual, front-wheel-drive.

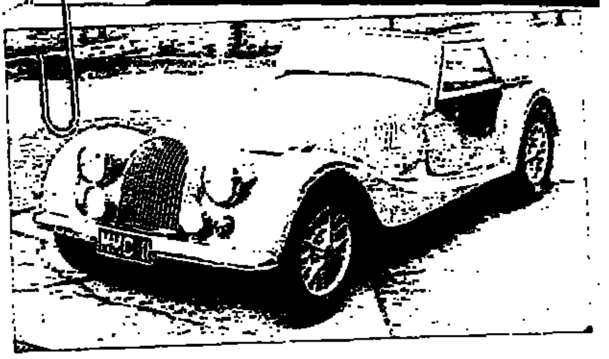
Performance: 0-62mph in 9.4 secs. Max speed 129mph.

Economy: 29.7mpg urban cycle; 34.8mpg at constant 75mph; 46.3mpg at 50mph.

Equipment: Anti-lock brakes, remote central locking, alarm/immobiliser, six-speaker stereo system, height-adjustable driver's seat.

Price: £15,557 on the road.

USED CAR BRIEF



MORGAN
The Morgan is how motoring used to be and the two-door convertible style dates from the Thirties. While engines are relatively up to date, they are surrounded by a wooden body frame put together largely by hand. The Four-Four uses a [illegible]-litre four-cylinder engine, the Plus Four a 2-litre four-cylinder and the Plus Eight a 3.5 or 3.9-litre V8. Two or four seats, minimal weather protection but fantastic performance and outrageous, evocative good looks make up a nostalgic package.

GOOD NEWS
Second-hand prices for Morgans are invariably higher than original showroom cost. A new Plus Eight costs around £30,000, which would buy you a four-year-old K-reg version if you could get to the seller before the rest of the world beat you to it and flattened you in the rush.

BAD NEWS
Seriously long waiting lists. The Morgan is hand-built and has developed an ardent cult following over the years, so used car values are enormous, ideal if you are selling, not so good if you are buying. Purchasing a used Morgan can be a [illegible] business.

LOOK FOR
The cost of rot, more often found in the joists of a country cottage than a car because the body is made on an ash frame. Morgans are also a favourite with racers so check for high-speed damage especially to the steering.

AVOID
The Plus Eight, which can be a real handful. The prodigious amounts of power supplied by Rover V8 engines in a car that scorns namby-pamby, modern offerings, such as power steering and servo assisted brakes, means thighs and shoulders take a pounding.

SAFETY
The Morgan lacks the modern car's comforting, assuring huge bumpers, but the ash frame around a steel ladder chassis makes the car surprisingly sturdy and accident resistant.

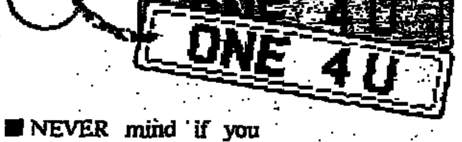
INSURANCE
Cover from 44 Insurance (0800 444777): a 1995 Morgan Plus Four costs a 55-year old professional male living in Winchester, with full no claims, £178 fully comprehensive, a female £163. A 20-year old male, with one year no claims living in south London, pays £751, a female £649.

PARTS
(Prices including VAT supplied by Glassmatix 01932-823823): clutch assembly £128; full exhaust £299; catalytic converter £423; rear damper £35; front brakepads (axle set) £24; alternator £163, radiator £407, starter motor £96.

PRICES
From around £5,000 for an early 1980s 1600 Four-Four and £12,000 for a mid-1990s Plus Four. Expect to pay £13,000 for a 1989 G-reg Plus Four 2000, £23,000 for a 1993 L-reg Plus Four, £15,000 for a 1988 E-reg Plus Eight and £31,000 for a 1993 L-reg Plus Eight.

OVERALL
Primitive suspension and chassis reduce ride comfort, space is at a premium, and the huge steering wheel is daunting. But the Morgan looks stunning, gives a lively and rapid drive and its 110mph top speed is academic as anything above motorway limits is distinctly uncomfortable. A supreme example of fun, impractical pre-war motoring, made modern.

■ AS THE R-registration car owners appear this morning with their chamois leathers and dusters to show off the new metal, thousands will give the numberplate an extra polish. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre sold £6 million worth of R-registration plates and those orders still pour in.



■ NEVER mind if you couldn't afford a new car — or even the numberplate — because now you can have your own special number on a key ring. Prestige Registrations (01702-522252) is offering a little key fob which can say almost as much about you as your car. Price £5.99, including postage and packing.

SPARE PARTS

■ DON'T get lost on the way to the showroom, because there are only 100 special edition Range Rovers to go round. Land Rover is offering an even more luxurious Range Rover — with the latest CARiN navigation system as a factory-fit option. The Range Rover Limited Edition comes in British Racing Green with 18-in five-spoke Mondial alloy wheels, hand-finished leather upholstery with dark green piping. Price: £53,000 on the road.

■ DRIVERS of more humble means, owning Vauxhall Astras up to 12 years old, can get fixed-price servicing and maintenance. More than 400 dealers offer a menu with service costing between £49.99 (interim) and £79.99 (major). Exhausts, cam belt changes, oil and filters are also included.

Option: CARiN navigation system

FORECOURT

■ **THE MINI can make a fun alternative to swarms of new microcars on the market, reports *CAP Black Book*, even after 38 years.**

Rust-prone, so check front wings, sills, beneath doors, seams, subframe and lift mats and carpets to check how far rust has progressed into the floorpan. If Minis do go wrong, repair bills can be higher than the value of a used car. Best bet is the Mini Mayfair or Ritz, while the City is too basic. Cooper versions are trendy and convertibles add luxury. Cars with the floor-mounted starter button have classic potential.

Expect to pay around £4,750 for a 1994 L-reg Mini Cooper 1.3i and £3,000 for a 1992 J-reg Mini Mayfair.

■ SUB-£1,000 motoring comes no tougher than the Skoda Estelle. Functional, tough and ludicrously cheap, the Estelle is also crude, basic and a rattle-box drive. Best buy 1990 H-reg 120 at around £1,000 with average mileage. Cars from 1987 have a five-speed gearbox and those sold privately are cheaper. Avoid pre-1987 cars and beware blocked radiators, abused interiors and broken switches.

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93L	200TE Auto esr, lca, d/sl	35T £19,995
94L	E220 Auto met, esr, alloys	40T £19,995
94M	E220 Auto met, lca, walnut	38T £19,995
94L	E220 Coupe met, spts, cloth, air, cd	49T £23,995
94M	E220 Estate Auto met, esr, rls, d/sl	19T £25,995
95P	E230 Elegance Estate met, auto air con	12T £32,995
92J	230E Auto met, rlx, d/sl	37T £16,995
96P	E250D Classic 5 Spd Auto met, lca, d/sl	8T £26,995
96P	E280 Avantgarde met, esr, alloys, d/sl	13T £33,995
96P	E320 Elegance met, esr, eds + m	3T £35,995
95N	E320 Elegance met, hide, air	6T £36,995
97P	S280 met, hide, clim, esr, d/sl	2T £42,995
97P	S320 met, hide, clim, esr, els	2T £50,995
95N	SL280 met, hide, d/sl, 8h, tracker	18T £53,995
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91J	230E Auto met, esr, ew, d/sl	51T £15,995
97P	C230 Elegance Auto met, esr, d/sl, srs	10T £26,995
97P	C230 Sport Komp met, hide, air, eds, cd	10T £31,995
97P	C250D Elegance Auto met, d/sl, c/c, srs	10T £25,995
93L	E220 Coupe Auto hide, 8 holes, esr, ew, d/sl	46T £23,995
95M	E220T Auto ds, esr, ew, d/sl, tex	33T £25,995
95N	E300 D Elegance Auto met, air, d/sl	15T £29,995
95M	E320 Auto met, hide, d/sl	29T £29,995
97P	E320 Elegance Auto met, hide, air, d/sl	5T £41,995
94L	E320 Auto met, hide, air, cc, 8 holes, eds, cd	34T £27,995
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95N	S280 Auto met, hide, acc, esr, d/sl	18T £35,995
97P	S320 Auto met, hide, sac, els, 6 holes, d/sl	1T £49,995
91H	500SEL Auto met, hide, els, hls, air, d/sl	33T £22,995
94M	S500L Auto met, hide, acc, hls, 8 hole, d/sl	39T £43,995
91J	300SL 24V Auto hide, air, rcs, mhls	62T £38,995
91H	300SL 24V Auto hide, air, rcs, 8 holes, mhls	40T £41,995
85B	280SL Auto hide, rcs, est	36T £22,995
94M	SL280 Auto met, hide, acc, rcs, d/sl	42T £49,995
96P	SL320 Auto black, black hide, acc, rcs, d/sl	7T £63,995
96P	SL320 Auto met, hide, rcs, acc, cd	6T £63,995
96P	SL320 Auto met, hide, acc, glass roof, d/sl	4T £65,995
93L	600SL Auto met, hide, rcs, Lorinser alloys	28T £84,995

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93J	190E 1.8 Auto Almandine, cream cloth, esr, slw, tar	58T £11,995
94M	C180 Classic Man White, black, slw, esr, r/c	52T £16,995
94M	C180 Sport Man Blue black, black, air con, r/c	27T £18,995
94M	C200 Elegance Man Almandine, grey cloth, s/c	17T £18,995
96P	C200 Eleg Auto Azurite, mushroom cloth, r/c	12T £22,995
95N	C180 Elegance Auto Blue black, grey cloth, r/c	45T £19,995
96P	C180 Elegance Auto Tourmaline, grey, a/c, r/c	10T £22,995
96P	C180 Elegance Auto Azurite, grey, a/con, r/c	11T £22,995
96P	C180 Elegance Auto Silver, blue, a/con, r/c	12T £22,995
96N	C200 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, mushroom cloth, a/c	17T £23,995
96M	C220 Elegance Auto Green blk, hide, a/c, eds	17T £26,995
95N	C230 Sport Estate Man Green blk, black cloth	22T £23,995
93K	200TE Auto Pearl blue, grey cloth, esr	60T £17,995
94M	E200 Auto Imperial red, grey, esr, slw	29T £16,995
95N	E200 SE Auto Blue black, grey cloth	11T £20,995
96N	E200T Classic Auto Silver, black, rls, esr	9T £21,995
93L	E220 Auto Blue black, grey cloth, ww, r/c	30T £18,995
95N	E230 Elegance Auto Silver, black hide, a/c, r/c	20T £30,995
96M	E280 Blue black, grey cloth, w/w, r/c	36T £24,995
96P	E280 Elegance Green black, grey cloth, a/c, r/c	9T £33,995
95M	E320 Auto Azurite, mushroom hide, huge spec	73T £24,995
91J	500E Auto Blue black, grey, air con,	75T £25,995
95N	SL60 AMG Blue, blue hide, full spec	10T £76,995
95N	SL280 Imperial red, black hide, r/c, 8 holes	15T £49,995
94L	300SE Silver, grey hide, clc, 8 holes	51T £33,995
94L	SL320 Blue black, mushroom hide, rcs, 8 holes	26T £49,995
95N	S500L Azurite, mushroom hide, full spec	19T £57,995
97P	SL500 Green black, mushroom hide, rns, clc	4T £79,995
92J	400 SE Pearl, grey, grey hide, good spec	66T £29,995
93K	500SEC Silver, blue hide	42T £45,995
96N	S600 Limo Azurite, grey hide, full spec	3T £79,995

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96P	C200 Sport Auto Silver, black cloth, esr, cd	9T £23,995
97P	C200 Sport Estate Vivianite, tar, ew, cd	10T £27,495
95N	C220 Sport Auto Ruby, esr, tar	17T £28,995
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95N	E230 A/garde Auto Azurite, hide, elm, tlare, esr	17T £27,995
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96P	E230 Est Eleg Auto Grn blk, O-VAT, air, music	12T £33,995
96P	E230 Est Eleg Auto Silver, O-VAT, air, music	7T £33,996
94M	E220 Cab Auto Silver, 8h, hls, cd	16T £37,995
95M	E220 Cab Auto Blue blk, black hide, hls, 8h	18T £37,995
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93K	300SL 24V Silver, hide, air, rcs, els, 8h	39T £46,995
96P	SL280 Silver, black hide, rcs, hbrw cd	10T £59,995
97P	SL280 Azurite, mushroom hide, rls, clc, cd, hbrw	2T £59,995
97P	SL320 Tour Grn, mush hide, 8h, rls, music,	4T £64,995
96P	SL320 Green black, hide, els, rls, music, air	5T £64,995
95M	SL500 Tourmaline, mushroom clc, cc, 8h	20T £64,995
95M	SL500 Azurite, mushroom hide rcs alloys	15T £66,995
96P	SL500 Azurite, hide, glass roof	13T £69,995
96P	SL500 Ruby mush hide, els, hls, alloys, clc	4T £74,995
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The V40 is the Nineties descendant of the ES 1800; **Ian Morton** finds one owner who wants to remain in the Seventies

How successful is Volvo's successor?

VOLVO TWIN TEST

It looks like an estate car and is said to be the spiritual successor to the ES 1800, that pretty Seventies model whose letters stood for "estate sport". But the V40 is not an estate, says Volvo; it is a five-door hatchback. Nowhere in the descriptive literature does the "e-word" appear. Can this new Dutch-built Volvo truly claim descent from the ES 1800?

Nothing can succeed or displace the great original, believes London portrait photographer Godfrey Argent, who is on his third ES 1800 — of 1972 vintage — and shows no signs of changing it. Ever.

"We bought it in Leamington for £1,495 ten years ago. It had 72,000 miles on the clock, was painted white, which was a terrible colour for the shape, and was full of rubbish and dog hairs. We had a £4,000 rebuild including the engine and we've spent £3,000 since. Now the car is British Racing Green, which shows off the lines and curves perfectly and matches the pale green leather. People stop as I park and say, 'What's that, then?', and congratulate me. Have you ever seen such a beautiful car?"

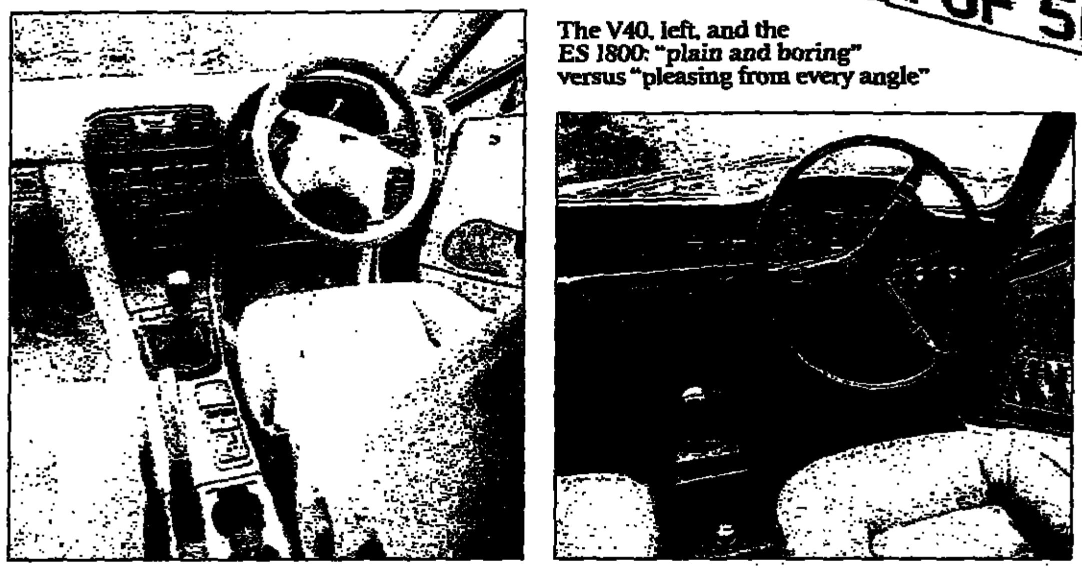
The V40, left, and the ES 1800: "plain and boring" versus "pleasing from every angle"

Volvo could hardly disagree since it used Godfrey's car as part of its presentation to dealers when launching the V40. So could he ever be tempted by the V40? He is the sort of brand-loyal motorist the carmakers both love and hate.

"I'd accept one as a gift," he says, straight-faced. "Then I could sell it and buy three more ES 1800s for restoration, if I could find them."

He went for a substantial town and country drive in the V40 while I followed in the ES 1800. The old car lacks little on performance but is by comparison loud with vague steering, brakes that do not exactly bite and a culture-shock control area.

"I love that dashboard — it reminds me of a Cessna," says Godfrey, who holds a licence to fly single and twin-engined aircraft. "You sit low. It has the same hands-on feel, the same warm smells of instruments and wiring and casings. And I don't care what you say, there isn't enough plastic wood to offend anyone, and it's certainly more acceptable than all that grey covering they've got on the V40 fascia, the colour of slip-ons worn by medallion men.


"All that grey covering" in the V40, left, while the ES 1800 dashboard "reminds me of a Cessna"

"Anyway, I've been in love with the ES 1800 for a very long time, and you don't notice the ugly bits in someone you love. Yes, there are a few. The quarterlights are prone to leak, the mirrors are small and the heater, which is marvellous in the winter, refuses to stop heating in summer and you can cook. And the car has early fuel-injection which has funny spasms on over-run and makes the rev counter go wobbly, but all the advice is not to tinker with it, and the popping stops the moment you touch the throttle."

Though designated an 1800, the car's engine is in fact 1986cc. Godfrey's car starts promptly on the coldest morning, uses no oil, makes 60mph from rest in about 12 seconds, has been known to hit 120mph on the clock and cruises comfortably at 90mph where appropriate: "Of course it's illegal, but that's the ambient speed on the motorways I use, so the car settles down happily with its modern counterparts, and the steering, which is heavy in town and makes you develop parking muscles. comes into its own. She is absolutely rock-solid in a straight line and totally unaffected by crosswinds. You can sit steadily consuming the miles for hour after hour — a bloody marvellous car for long journeys. I look at the frontal aerodynamics of the V40 and the wide-eyed gaping face of the ES 1800 and say, well, whatever that old design may imply in terms of speed and fuel consumption it certainly doesn't affect stability.

"It adds up to all the performance I need. Instead of a fifth gear, the ES 1800 has the old solenoid-operated overdrive available on top gear at the flick of a column stalk, equally effective for overtaking or for easing the speed down without using the gear lever. It's part of that package which makes the driver of an older car a better driver.

"I drive her well because I have to. An older car obliges you to drive more carefully and skilfully. You have to think differently. You observe, and plan. Because the brakes are not so sharp and powerful you can't drive up someone else's tailpipe. It is no coincidence that the road-rage merchant didn't exist when they launched this car."

The real joy is the rear styling, says Godfrey: "Beautiful, distinctive, totally individual, low and sleek, pleasing from every angle — no car stylist ever got a back end into better shape. By comparison, the V40 is plain and boring, like so many so-called modern cars."

But he admits the impracticality of the old design, both the shallowness of the boot and the wonderful view of its contents given to the potential thief. When we return to London and park in the street, his expensive photographic gear goes into the V40, not the ES 1800.

"But I don't think there's much about the new car that derives from the old," he insists. "They have retained the perfect driving position. I got into the V40 and was instantly at home. I felt I was in a Volvo. But take the badges off and you can't see the lineage. They can claim what they bloody well like, but I've got eyes."

VOLVOS PAST AND PRESENT

VOLVO ES 1800
Engine: Two-litre, four-cylinder developing 135 brake horse power through four-speed manual transmission with fifth gear solenoid overdrive.

Performance: 0-60mph in 12 secs, top speed 120mph.

Economy: 27 mpg touring, 20mpg urban.

Price: £2,638 when new.

VOLVO V40
Engine: Two-litre, five-cylinder developing 140bhp through five-speed manual transmission offering four-speed automatic option.

Performance: 0-60mph in 9.2 secs, top speed 120mph.

Economy: 3.14mpg on average and 22.1mpg urban.

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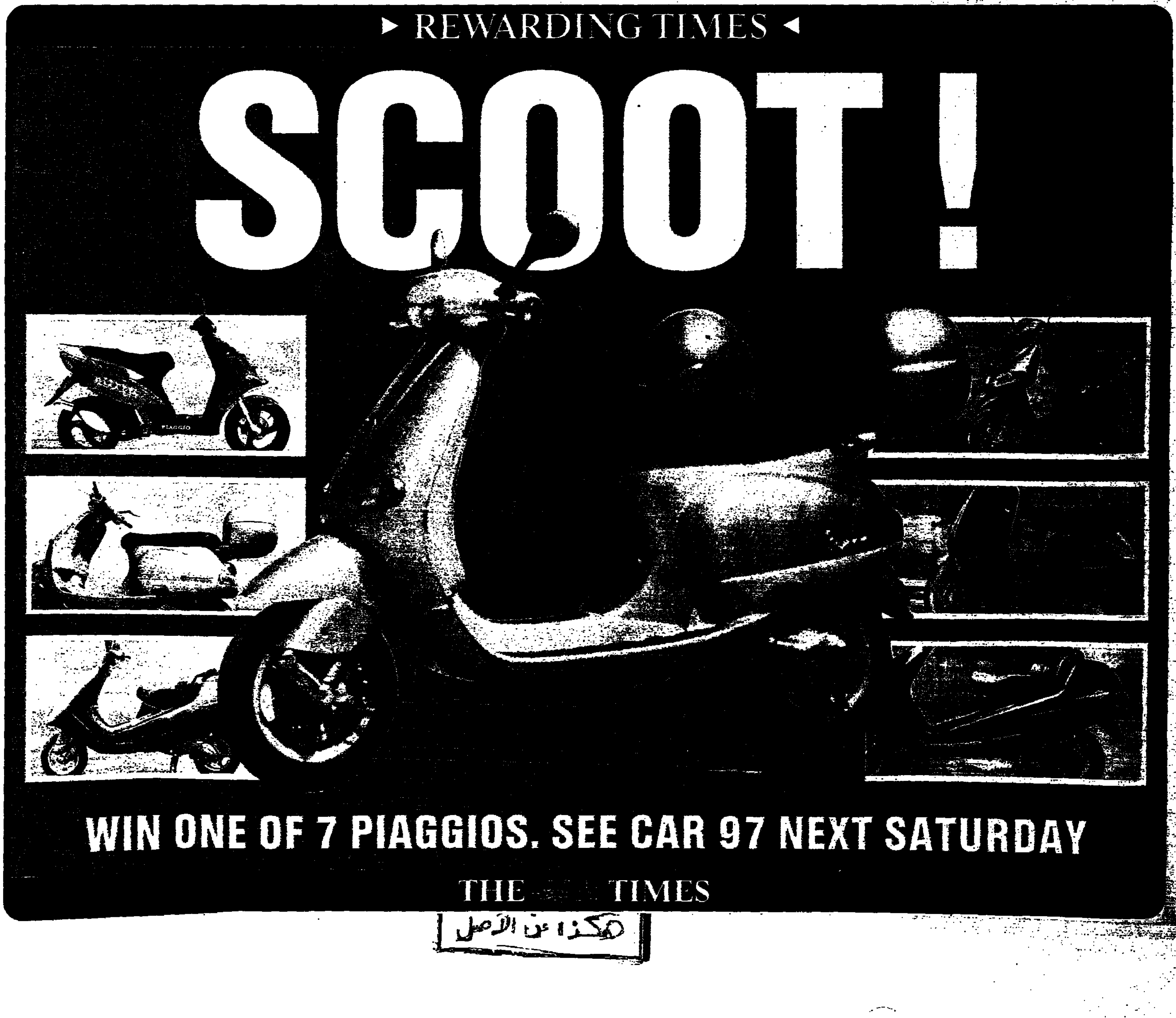
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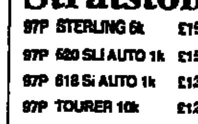

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MARY HARVEY

Furnell and her Austin Seven Ulster: "Many people think they can't afford to race a vintage car but; this is one of the cheapest forms of racing there is"

On the grid, engine running, I wondered what on earth I was doing. After all, everybody needs a hobby — and mine is more bizarre than most, at least for a woman. Give me a vintage car and an open track and I'm happy as Larry . . . or Stirling Moss, I suppose.

I competed for a couple of years in hillclimb events and driving tests staged by the Vintage Sports Car Club — but now I am qualified for the real thing with a racing licence to hit the same track as Damon Hill and David Coulthard.

Almost, for this was slightly more junior than Formula One, though my first outing — at Silverstone, home of the British Grand Prix — was daunting to say the least. As I took my place on the grid in my Austin Seven Ulster, there were none of the expected nerves, just an excited realisation and an urge to win. The task was to complete 12 laps with one stop to change a spark plug.

The flag dropped and I was off — and what fabulous fun, I discovered. I didn't have the fastest car in the field — nowhere near, in fact — but you don't need to be the best to enjoy the racing.

Tucking into corners and taking the racing line. Five laps in at the pit stop, I bounded out of the car as my father undid the bonnet and handed me tools to change the plug. Removing a spark plug shouldn't be the most taxing of tasks but under the gaze of a photographer and a television camera crew my fingers turned to thumbs and suddenly this was one of the most difficult jobs I had attempted.

What seemed like hours was just minutes before I was back in the car and away to rejoin the action. With practice lap times of around 1 minute 53 seconds, I raced on for seven more laps to achieve a finish and a faster lap time — even a podium finish if I could coax my groaning little Austin around a track better known for being filled with the shrieks of modern F1 cars rather than the buzz of a car slightly past its best years.

Furnell on the track: an urge to win

At the sight of the number 12 on the lap board, I knew I was home, but where had I finished? Astonishingly, third in my class and 20th overall with a best lap of 1 min 51. That was it for me.

Racing, particularly in vintage cars, is an addiction difficult to kick; and once hooked you can never kick it.

I became aware of vintage racing when my father bought a 1926 Austin Seven Burghley. I doubt that its designers had ever considered it might one day be used for racing, but we decided to try it out at the Wiscombe Park hillclimb, Devon, three years ago. It received the first of many mentions for its unusual looks — and set the slowest time of the day.

We wondered just what we were getting into, watching one driver and his father rebuilding the back axle of their car by first draining the oil into the nearest receptacle — a frying pan, which was later cleaned and used for breakfast. But that is the gung-ho, friendly spirit of the Vintage Sports' Car Club, which stages these meetings of ageing but still sprightly cars.

Many people might think they can't afford to race a vintage car but if you want to compete, this is one of the cheapest forms of racing there is. There is such camaraderie in the pits while an ever-increasing band of young members is shrugging off the image of the VSCC as dominated by chaps with handlebar moustaches and Bentleys.

In fact, this is one form of motorsport where many women compete and this year I will also be taking part in a formula designed for drivers under 23. So, youth and women are combined to make racing a vintage car one of the most fun things I can do on four wheels. There are also many women racing, proving that this isn't just a sport for the guys.

How to go Vintage Racing:

- *Get a car. A good Austin can be picked up from around £5,000.*
- *Club membership: Joining fee £10; membership £34; young member (17-22) £17.*
- *Entry Fees: From £20 to £50. There are discounts for younger drivers.*
- *Running Costs: Around £1,500 a year, including insurance but no tax on cars over 25 years old.*
- *Transport: If you can't drive to the meeting, you'll need a trailer and tow car.*
- *Equipment: You need to be dressed for the occasion which means investing in good quality race wear. Start with a good crash helmet (which is mandatory), which costs from £50 for the most basic open-faced type to upwards of £500 for the full face protection. The golden rule is to buy the best you can afford within reason. Fireproof Overalls (also mandatory) come from £65 for a simple single layer suit up to £500 for the better triple layer suits with extra fire protection. In-car fire extinguishers (also mandatory) are around £40. Gloves are recommended and cost from around £25 up to £100. Race boots (£25-£45) are also optional but are comfortable, light and easy to use.*
- *And don't forget you will need a race licence, which means taking a race driving course to qualify for the right to a place on the grid. Course and licence is about £150.*
- *The Vintage Sports Car Club, Tel: 01635 44411. Fax: 01635 580612*

Such elegant, swelegant parties

Kevin Eason looks at some stylish cars on show in Paris this summer

Walk into the car park outside the Parc de Bagatelle in Paris next month and you will get depressed; the art of the automobile seems long gone.

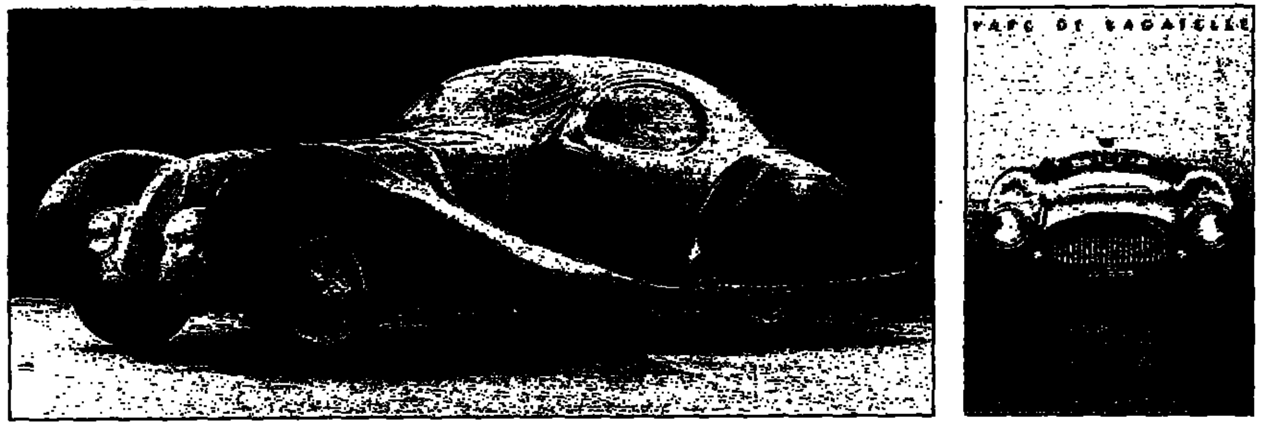
The Concours Automobile Classiques et Louis Vuitton celebrates its tenth anniversary by putting on show a selection of cars which exude history and personality.

The Renault XB of 1907 at least had a sense of style, even in the dim and distant past. Have there been cars prettier than the Talbot Lago SS or the 125 S, the first to bear the Ferrari name? They came off the drawing boards in 1937 and 1947 respectively — although buyers would beat each other to death even now to own such gorgeous creatures.

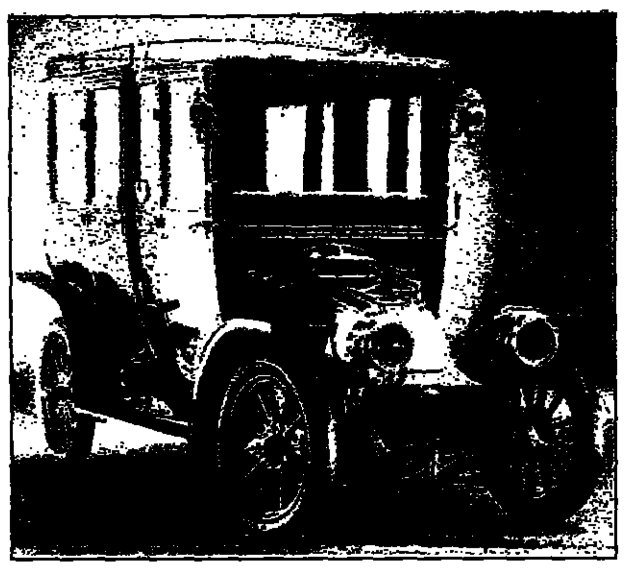
The Chevrolet Aerovette showed what might have been if carmakers had been willing to stick out their corporate necks, but Chrysler shows the way with its fabulous Phaeton, which might yet emerge as a production car.

Each car tells its own story of an age which boasted more elegance and spurned the demands of the accountants who have managed to turn the modern industrial world into a bleak wasteland of sameness.

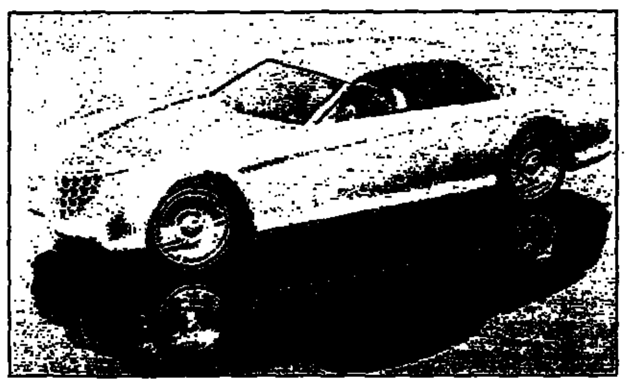
Ignore the Michael Crawford lookalike in the turret of the Rolls-Royce armoured car though, for the car is impressive, even laughably so. Try sticking an armoured body on to a Silver Spur now and see how well it would work.



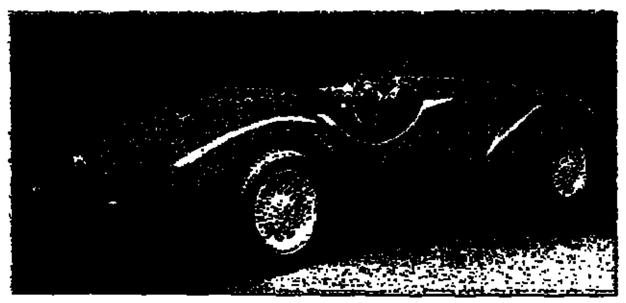
Talbot Lago SS: designed in 1937, although buyers today might kill each other to own such a gorgeous creature



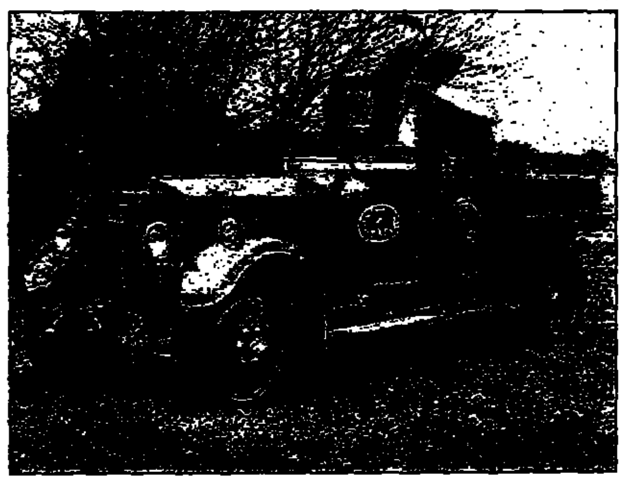
Renault XB of 1907: style of the dim and distant past



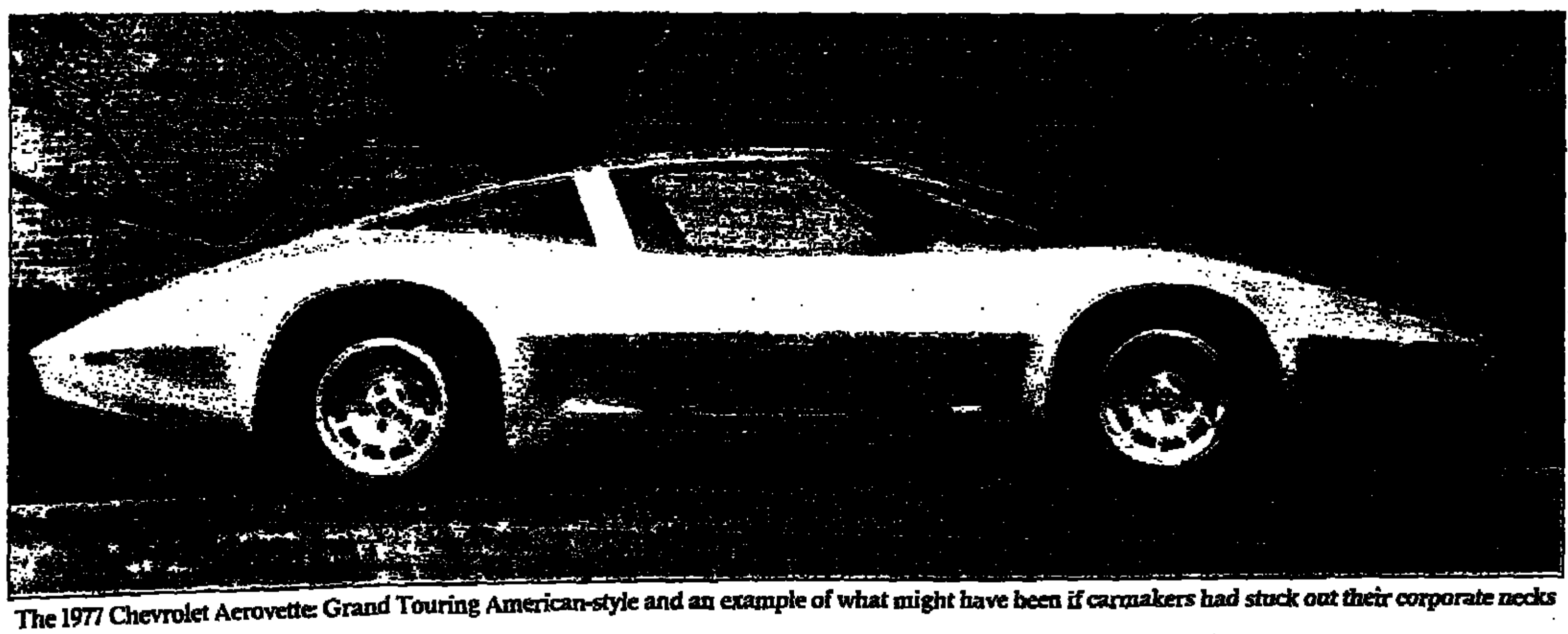
The 1997 Phaeton, which might yet go into production



The 125 S of 1947, first car to bear the Ferrari name

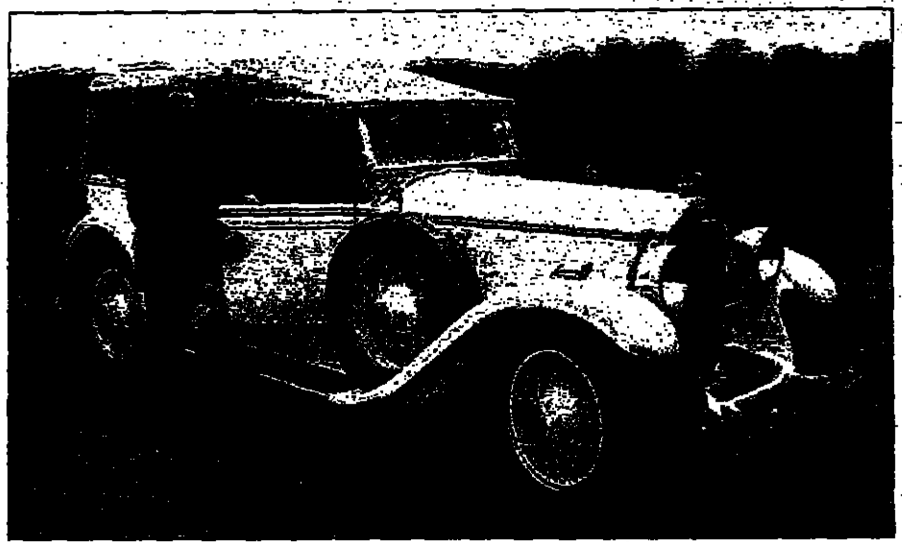


Rolls-Royce armoured car, veteran of the First World War



The 1977 Chevrolet Aerovette: Grand Touring American-style and an example of what might have been if carmakers had stuck out their corporate necks

Tony Dawe reports on our Shakespeare entrants



Idwal Bacon and his Buick, restored after research at the National Motor Museum

Bacon's rare slice of Buick

AN EXTREMELY rare Buick seven-seater open tourer has gained one of the first places reserved for classic vehicles owned by *CAR 97* readers on this year's Coventry run through Shakespeare country.

The 1928 Master Six Model 49, one of only two built, was entered by Idwal Bacon, an engineer from Patching, West Sussex, who has restored the impressive machine after buying it in a poor state five years ago.

Mr Bacon wrote in after reading that 20 places were being reserved for *CAR 97* on the heavily over-subscribed rally, which will take 480 veteran, vintage and classic cars on a 65-mile trip from Coventry to Kenilworth, Straford-on-Avon and Warwick on September 7.

The event is being sponsored this year by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers to mark its 150th anniversary and the organisers were looking for rare and innovative models to take part. Mr Bacon's Buick certainly fits the bill.

"It was built in Canada by McLaughlin, the famous carriage builders, on a Buick chassis, presumably for someone with a large family," he says. "It was shipped to South Africa where it was owned by the Standard Bank, but reached Britain in 1933. It was so large — and cars of its size so rare after the war — that a crane was fitted in the back and it was used as a recovery vehicle.

"I got to know the car as a young mechanic when it was owned by Cyril Piggott, who promised me first refusal if he ever considered selling it. I finally got the call in July 1992, but it was in a sorry state. The engine had seized but the car was basically sound and I restored it after carrying out research at the National Motor Museum and making some of the parts myself."

Martin Hone of International Festival Services, the organisers, says: "Mr Bacon's Buick deserves its place in *The Times* Twenty for we are looking for unusual, wacky and interesting models to represent *CAR 97* readers. The entry has been excellent with a good selection of classic saloons, sports cars and the bizarre."

The Buick will be joined by at least one other American car for another place has been awarded to Cliff Wright's 1948 Studebaker Champion Starlight Coupé.

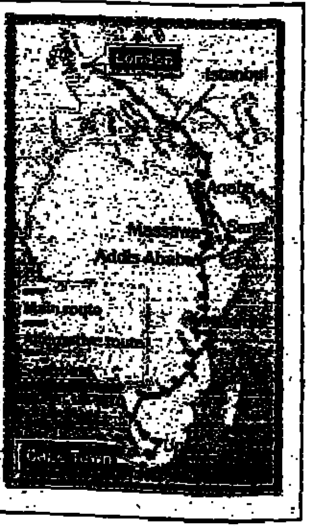
Mr Wright, of Droitwich, Worcestershire, wrote: "The car was imported from the Phillipines via Hong Kong in December 1987 and remained unregistered in Winchester until I purchased it in April. After completing various jobs to make it roadworthy and obtaining an MoT certificate, I successfully registered it on July 2 and the car triumphantly took to the road for the first time in ten years."

A dedicated area at Coombe Country Park, Coventry, where the event starts and finishes, will be set aside for *The Times* Twenty. The owners of the chosen cars will also receive £50 towards petrol expenses from BP, provided they buy fuel from a BP filling station, and a free Michelin road atlas of Great Britain.

WHEELS OF ADVENTURE

THE FOOTHILLS of Kilimanjaro, the Victoria Falls and the stunning bleakness of the Kalahari desert are all on the map for one of the most ambitious rallies in the classic car calender. The London to Cape Town Reliability Trial is not only open to owners of classic cars — from vintage Bentleys to Volvo Amazons, but also drivers of off-roaders who spend their days wondering how they would perform when not cossetted on Tarmac.

Details for entries for the challenge in October, 1998 — £15,000 for the 4x4 adventure and £20,000 for the classics, including accommodation and vehicle shipment — from the Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation: 01886-833505. Lord Steel, the former Liberal leader, is in charge of diplomatic relations with countries being crossed, while Lord Montagu of Beaulieu is rally patron.



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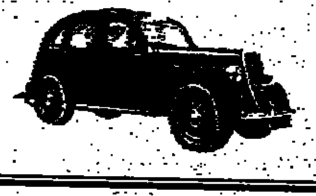

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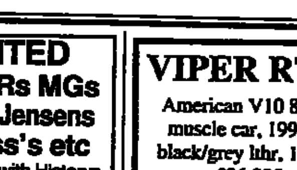

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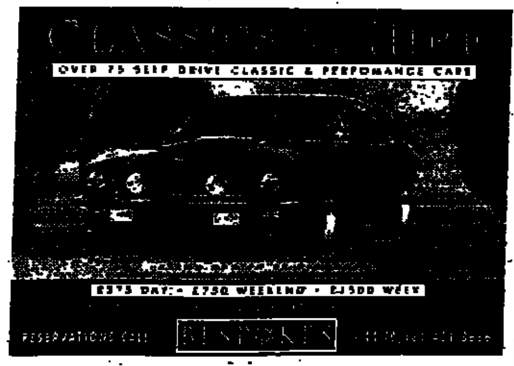

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Let Dr Fletcher look after your old friend

Vaughan Freeman on a former Cottage Hospital where classic cars have become the 'patients'

What used to be a Cottage Hospital has been converted into a nursing home that restores tired, classic cars back to health.

The morgue is no longer filled with bodies, but with spare parts, components and other automotive paraphernalia. *The former intensive care* unit is the body shop, where bent and rusting cars are coaxed back into shape, and vehicles are booked in for *renovations and services* where nursing staff checked in human admissions. Cars recovering in the Old Cottage Hospital in Newburn, north of Newcastle upon Tyne, even get sent "get well" cards from their anxious owners.

The automotive Florence Nightingale in charge of this slightly eccentric automotive care for the elderly *scheme is* Tim Fletcher, a retired engineer, whose 1927 Alvis is a regular out-patient and who recently threw a *70th* birthday party for it.

The Old Cottage Hospital started life in 1909. Many of its patients came from among the workers *of the nearby Spencer* Steelworks that provided steel plates for ships including the *Mauritania*.

As a hospital, the building was *at its busiest during* the two World Wars but in the Fifties it became home to an electronics and engineering firm. Three years ago, Fletcher took over as home for his firm, Classic Restorations.

He specialises in Morris Minors, Volkswagen Beetles and MGs but the present "patient" list also includes a 1936 Morris Eight, a 1930 *Austin Seven Chummy*, *an* MGB, a Triumph TR1 Roadster, Reliant Scimitar, Alvis TD and an MGA.

Fletcher, who worked on the *Sky Bolt missile system* during his time with Avro then as service and parts director at car dealerships in the Midlands and the North-East, has always been a car "nut".

"My first, in 1957, was a 1927 Crossley, then two years later I bought a scrap Alvis, an SD1250, which I still have and which has just had its birthday party," he says.

While he can restore all sorts of classic cars, it is the Morris Minor that helped get the hospital established: "We have had Morris Minors in *the family* ever *since they* came out. They are reliable and pretty trouble free and maintenance is easy on them."

Sign of the times: owners call from all over the world

Tim Fletcher and a Morris Minor, one of the hospital's specialties

So offering restoration work on Morris Minors, and selling them, seemed an obvious choice: "Having retired, I thought why not? And started looking around for a property and fell *across* this. Now we get customers from as far north as Inverness and as far south as Devon. We even had a customer in Torbay who *bought a car from us unseen*.

"He saw one of our advertisements for a Morris Minor Traveller and called us. We sent him photographs of the *car and* he *sent us* a refundable deposit and said he would pay for delivery. So we set out with the car on a trailer at 4am and by 11am we were outside his house. The car was a 21st birthday present for his daughter so we tied it up in pink ribbon and put some flowers on the back seat."

Fletcher says his customers are happy to leave their cherished cars with him for months at a time as rest, recuperation and restoration proceed. He gets fax messages from as far afield as Hong Kong and Singapore from owners asking how they are getting on.

It is not pure romance that maintains such a lively interest in classic cars, he says; the practical side is just as important. "People are interested in old cars not just as hobbies but also for everyday use. The fact that cars over 25 years old are exempt from tax is always attractive, although it is mainly their character, their style and the *nostalgic attractions* which make them irresistible.

"At the same time, car owners are also discovering that their vehicles are becoming classics sooner than they might expect. One customer who brought in his 1981 Turbo Renault 5 was pleasantly surprised to find that it had a market value of £12,000. He had bought it for £300."

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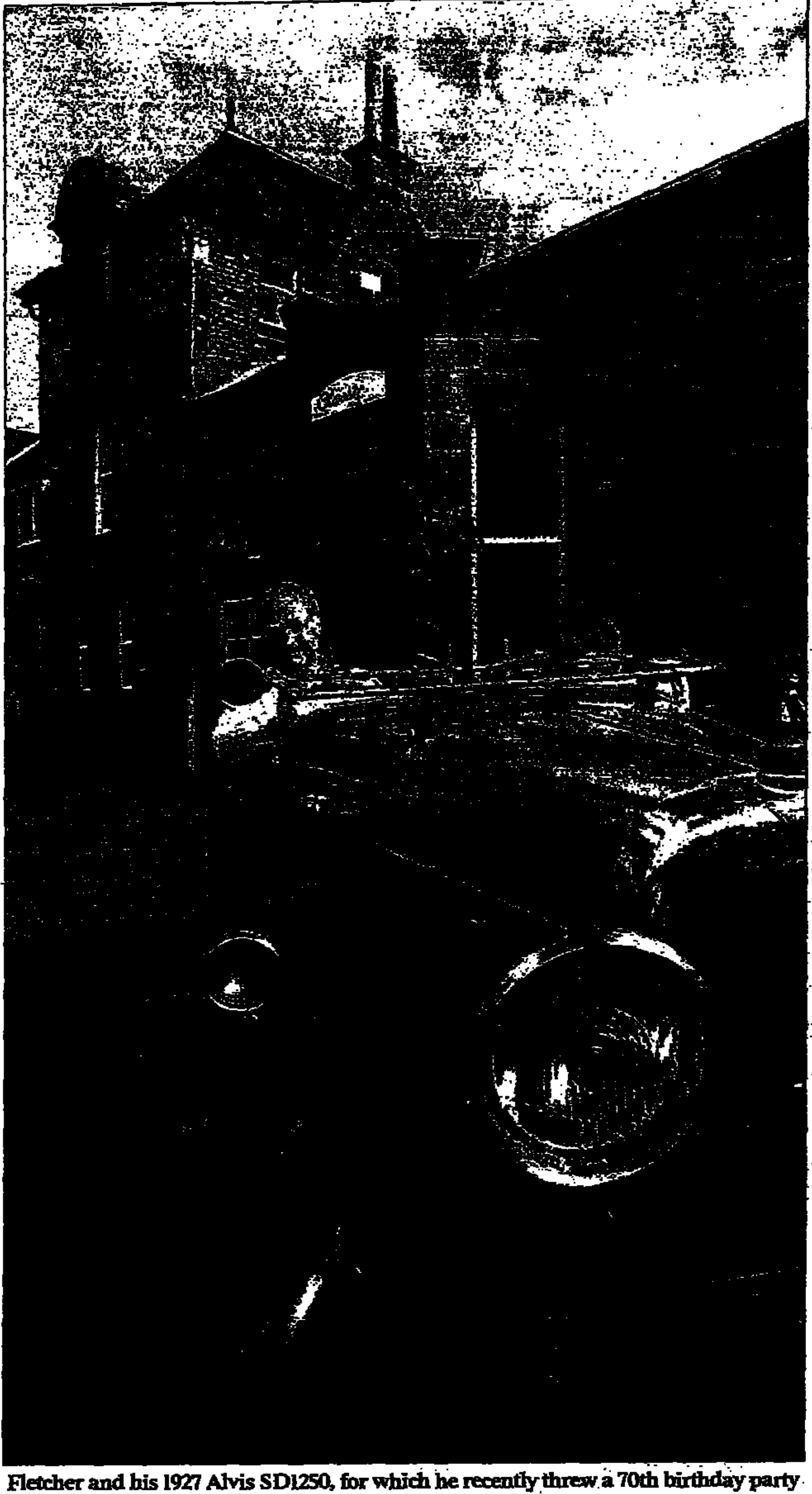
STUART OUTTERSIDE



Fletcher and his 1927 Alvis SD1250, for which he recently threw a 70th birthday party

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Readers letters this month touch on who are the true sons of the soil, a far-from-bashful badger, and turning water into wine

A controversial story of countryfolk

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

It is a great shame that an anonymous "Cornish Woman", who wrote to me in the most unflattering terms, will not be reading this. In fact, she has vowed never to "read or watch *anything* by [me] again". She tells me in no uncertain terms to "get those huge, flat feet into gear and walk to Hyde Park in support of the countryside" and that, "the article you wrote was all untrue. How much lower can you go?"

The point I was trying to make before that rally, and which clearly caused deep offence, was that the urban observer might receive the wrong message because all things rural have become aspirational. Country dwellers are the lucky ones, so townspeople think. How can a life with roses around the cottage door be anything other than idyllic?

My other concern was that true country people deal more easily in quiet understanding than shouting from rooftops. Kate Barlow, writing from Minehead, Somerset, seems to agree. She writes: "I have found living on Exmoor a salutary learning experience; totally different even from that of rural Gloucestershire, where I lived for many years. The relationship between the country people and the red deer is an integral part of life and seems to me positive and creative, not destructive. The indigenous people of Exmoor are not bloodthirsty, they are vigorous and hard-working, realistic and compassionate. They are not Sunday supplement people. It is terribly sad that the message of the rally will go to the already converted."

This is a conclusion clearly arrived at after a great deal of thought. Most rural matters are as complex as any urban issue and take more than shouted words at a rally to appreciate and understand.

Paradoxically, I said, their natural reticence ensures that country people are not always the best at explaining them. But Mrs Mary Brill, of Ashburton, Devon, finds this view "patronising". She writes: "You fall into the trap of thinking that we are all the same: a dim tribe dressed in subfusc clothing permanently welded to its green wellies. On the contrary, some of us are sharpening up fast, though not before time, I agree."

Mrs Brill feels that I am being patronising towards *her*, so she has fallen into the same trap which has snared me: that of using too broad a brush.

The truth is that the countryside is now inhabited by such a wide variety of people that we do not have enough words to describe them all. Think of it as a zoo which contains three distinct species, as well as one or two mongrels.

First, there is the rare and valuable creature who is the true countryman, or woman, who has lived a life on the land, in the woods and forests or by the rivers, who has developed a deep understanding of how to balance the natural forces that make the countryside work and would like to be left alone to get on with it. Among these are the more intelligent farmers, gamekeepers, huntsman and stalkers.

The second group of people have arrived from towns and decided to make their homes in the countryside. They know that they can never be *true* countrymen, but hope that some of it rubs off on them; they hold the first species in some reverence. And then there is the third class, those who happen to have bought a house surrounded by fields, and that's it. They have no wish to understand the way of life of the first group, and find it all rather grisly. These are the ones who complain about the dawn crowing of the cockerel and the mud in the lanes.

Yet we have only one word to describe all three of them — countryfolk. Which is why Mrs Brill feels patronised, which was not intended.

While we dive to the thesaurus to discover words which might suit these three groups of people (suggestions welcome), we might also ponder a couple of other deeply rural mysteries. The first concerns a fearless badger.

Trevor Boon, of Ware, Hertfordshire, writes: "Out walking my dog, I stopped to investigate a rustling noise in a clump of nettles by the roadside. Imagine my surprise when a half-grown badger cub emerged and walked straight towards me, ignoring my dog, which stood rooted to the spot. The badger cub rested its snout on my shoe, then ran its nose up to my knee. Eventually, satisfied that I was harmless, it made its leisurely way back into the undergrowth. Can you confirm that this is anything other than unusual behaviour in what I had always thought to be a shy, nocturnal animal wary of humans (and dogs)?"

That's a question which requires an answer from a true countryman, please.

The next mystery goes back to the 1920s and is recalled by Philip Henry (now 82), of Hove, Sussex. He was ten at the time and lived at in the village of Salford Priors, near Stratford-upon-Avon. He remembers his father coming into the cottage carrying "a jam jar which contained a blob of what looked like fermenting yeast, pulsating like a jelly fish.

"I and my three brothers gathered round to see this strange object, though we were all put off by its rather obscene appearance and the fact that it seemed alive. My father was a man of little explanation but he did say it had been given to him and was called Mythuglum. A container and sugar was produced, a quart of water added and then the blob was introduced. The blob immediately sank to the bottom, suddenly rose to the surface, then sank again, and rose . . .

"Then, after a couple of days, two transformations had taken place: the liquid, now pale amber, was not just sweetened water but a very pleasant alcoholic drink. The second surprise was that the culture had doubled in size and now two blobs were willing to go to work.

"As you can imagine, word spread like wildfire round the village. Neighbours vied with each other for a sample of the blob and soon the whole area was saturated. The result was that the original blob was discarded to die among the coal ashes. Suddenly, the Mythuglum no longer existed and I never knew the true story behind it. The two local inns certainly didn't lament its demise."

It hardly needs saying that the turning of water into wine remains something of a miracle, and, if it can so easily be achieved merely by the use of a blob of Mythuglum, it seems that we must investigate further. In the interests of rural history, of course.

Any clues would be welcome. And, oh, all right, then. Samples, if you must.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

No serious surfing dudes venture out without their shades

Kings of the boardwalk

Crashing waves and big bucks lure the world's top surfers to Cornwall once a year. **Anna Blundy** hangs out with the best

PAUL SLATER

Living the dream: surfers Paul Banks, Barrie Hall and Rod Reece take a break from riding the waves

The beach is seething with pierced and tattooed bodies. Loud music seems to be coming from most directions, joints are being rolled and hundreds of semi-naked people are using their sun-kissed bodies to help them to sell hair wraps, silver jewellery, sarongs and beer.

An Australian voice shouts out from the heavens: "There's a red flag flying out there today. Swim and you're dead. Go out and you won't last long!" This is not Bondi Beach or California, however. It is Fistral Beach, Newquay.

The Australian lifeguard's message is for the faint-hearted only, because at the Headworx Surf Festival in Cornwall this week, the pros are out on the water no matter how terrifying the swell. From the judges' Portakabins on the cliff, tiny figures can be seen emerging from the roaring sea to ride the crests of their chosen waves into the shore, sometimes disappearing underwater, sometimes earning a yell from the crowd as they perform a radical move.

Newquay, with its year-round surf season, and waves as good as those in parts of Australia and California, has been the home of British surfing since Australian lifeguards introduced us to the sport, and Bill Bailey opened his board factory there in 1965. This year, there are 224 men and 30 women surfers taking part in the Association of Surfing Professionals' world tour qualifying round, hoping to grab themselves $100,000 prize money. And they would need it. The competitors, from all over the world, but with a hefty Australian, American and South African contingent, have to do a lot of travelling to keep up with the world's waves and, apart from a certain amount of sponsorship, it is at their own expense.

They have come to Newquay from Anglet in France and will leave after the finals for Huntington Beach, in the United States, taking their sun-bleached hair, toned bodies and salt-chapped lips with them. And they will probably be glad to go. Waves aside, Newquay, with its amusement arcades and burger bars, is not exactly Hawaii. "Without the surfing," said Australian pro Tracy Boxall, "well . . ."

Surfing may be a Sixties phenomenon, still shackled in the public imagination to free love, LSD and tie-dying in California, but, in common with other sports, commercialisation has meant that the pros have to take themselves very seriously indeed.

Surfers divide into two categories. Those who can really surf, and surf bums. The former watch the clouds intently, check the weather reports, know all there is to know about waves and look disconcertingly fit, healthy and vibrant — they have early nights and drink water. Their teeth gleam, their tans glow and they have bodies that biology teachers would use to point out the muscle groups. They say things like "there's an off-shore today", but their conversation is largely comprehensible.

The latter group looks tired, smoke, has tattoos and pierced eyebrows, walks towards the sea rather than running and talks about how your first wave of the day can help to clear your hangover. They use surfing slang to apply to life ("that's gnarly, dude!") and speak no known language. These people are a far cry from Laird Hamilton, an almost mythical creature whose prowess under monumental waves is documented on hundreds of adoring posters.

British No 1 Russell Winter is of the first group. Originally from Hounslow, west London, Winter's family moved to Cornwall when he was nine, and he has been surfing ever since. Now 21 he is sponsored by Gotcha Clothing, Gul Wet Suits, Dragon Sunglasses, Animal Watches and Lindon Surfers. "People are giving you an awful lot of money," he smiles. "We are professional athletes."

British surfers have not been winning titles since Martin Potter took the world title in 1989, but Winter and his colleague Grishka Roberts are planning to change that. Winter watches his fellow competitors out of the corner of his eye, laughing when they wipe out. The Voodoo Dolls (another trendy brand of clothing) women's competition is coming up any second. Are the girls any good, I ask. "I wouldn't know," says Winter, looking down shyly. "I've got a fiancée."

Down on the beach among the crowd who have turned up in their VW campers with "not workin' just surfin' " stickers in the windows, fiancées are the last thing on people's minds. The competition sponsors, Headworx Clothing and Cherry Coke, are making a huge effort to fit in with the traditional surf bum image. They have provided beach volleyball, skate boarding, tattoo painting and store after store of things such as toe rings, joss sticks, multicoloured hats and the flasher brands of surfwear.

A tattoo for Richard Brookes

Even the brochures are written out in mock handwriting and are headed by a pierced lip. "Cherry Coke is challenging surfing dudes and dudettes to do something different at the 1997 Headworx Cherry Coke Surf Festival in Newquay from July 24 to August 4" it begins, and encourages visitors to have their navels pierced with a Cherry Coke ring pull.

Then there is the competition to win a VW convertible Beetle — "I think . . . should get their . . . pierced because . . ." is the tiebreaker, and the best clean one received mid-week was "I think the Queen should get her nose pierced because it would make stamps more interesting".

But back to surfing. This year Jake Paterson and Rob Machado (if he makes it over from France in time) are tipped to take the contest. Their three best waves will be marked out of ten. But a clean ten is rare and would only come from surfing a cube (going down the middle of the inside of a breaking wave), something that rarely happens in England. These boys are among the select few, like the 23-year-old millionaire Kelly Slater, who actually make a good living from doing what they do best.

Ted Deerhurst, the sport's notorious eccentric, two decades older than the rest of them and still at it, is not one of these. His father is the Earl of Coventry and the mere mention of Ted brings a dazzling smile to the dry lips of the rippling pros. "He says there's no money in that background, but he must be getting money from somewhere to do the tour. And he's not getting it from surfing."

But money, of course, is not what they are doing it for. "When you feel an ice-cream headache coming on from cold waves breaking over your skull and every muscle is exhausted you'll understand why I have to get up and get out there every morning." Or then again, you might not . . .

WIN A SURFBOARD

The Times has teamed up with Cherry Coke to give away a limited-edition hand-crafted surfboard worth £1,500, made by surf expert Simon Leddy. To win it, all you have to do is name the two male stars of the film *Point Break*, and send your name, address and daytime telephone number, with your answer to: Cherry Coke Surfing Competition, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Answers must reach us by August 12, 1997, when the first correct answer opened will win. The winner's name will be published on August 16.

No correspondence will be entered into. No Purchase Necessary. Normal Times rules apply, which are available on request. Open to residents of Great Britain over 16 only. Cherry Coke and Cherry Coca-Cola are registered trade marks of The Coca-Cola Company.

Secret shame of the blackbird

FEATHER REPORT

PETER BROWN

The blackbird: scruffy feathers

BLACKBIRDS are starting to look rather scruffy. Their autumn moult is under way and many of these glossy black birds now have untidy, dirty-looking feathers sticking out of their wings. Their secret is that the inner margins of their wing feathers, which are normally concealed, are grey — and in August we can see their shame.

They lose only a few wing-feathers at a time and the new ones quickly replace them, so that they can still fly during the moult, but it makes them cautious and they skulk about under bushes more than ever.

When the British Ornithologists' Union was giving new names to some birds a few years ago, it considered renaming the blackbird the black thrush, which would be quite apposite, because it is the only pure black member of the thrush family. In the end, though, the union said it did not have the courage to change such an old, well-loved name. Internationally, however, the blackbird is now the "common blackbird", to distinguish it from species such as the yellow-headed blackbird.

Pure or partial albino blackbirds are sometimes seen and recently a contributor to *British Birds* magazine described two very peculiar young blackbirds, evidently with deficient pigment. They were cinnamon-coloured and looked like small collared doves.

I HEARD a blackbird singing in the last week of July, but this was a very late performer. I listened for a while to the sweet, low, throaty song, since it is unlikely that I shall hear another this year.

It is curious to think that, until 150 years ago, the blackbird was a shy bird of the forests. Its low-pitched song is typical of birds of deep woodland, because that kind of song carries farther among the foliage than a high-pitched song would. Now that the blackbird has become a garden bird, it brings this deeply rural note to our towns.

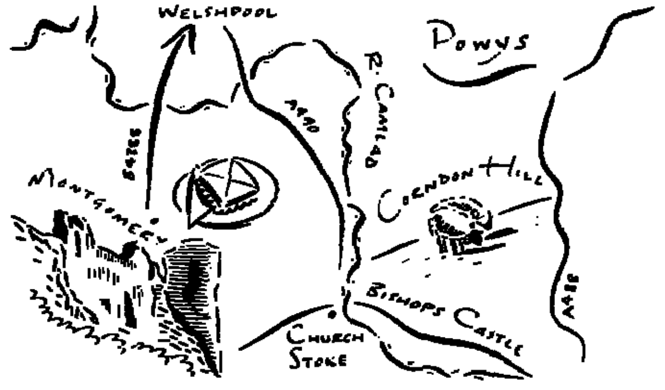
They are still very nervous birds, though, fleeing with a clattering cry at the least hint of danger, and are also very aggressive when they are among other birds. Song-thrushes seem to have diminished in numbers in gardens in recent years, but it has been suggested that this may be partly an illusion. Song-thrushes, it is argued, will not venture out on to a lawn while blackbirds are feeding there, so if blackbirds are attracted by crumbs, it seems as though the song-thrushes have vanished. I think there may be something in this theory.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — look out for hobbies hunting for food for their young. Twitchers — look out for a squacco heron at Ely, Cambridgeshire and a buff-breasted sandpiper at Cley, Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

ON THE SPOT: MONTGOMERY, CENTRAL WALES

JANE SPENCER



Rural recommendations

The place: THE CHURCH YARD Montgomery, Powys.

The view: east towards England is a view of pagan Corndon (about 1,700ft). By contrast, the gentle Camlad flows in a valley in between this huge dark hill and Montgomery. Turn to the north and the Camlad flows into the River Severn, and you'll sight an old Roman road running towards Welshpool. Return to the town and you will find one of the few untouched Georgian main streets in Wales.

The appeal: Montgomery has that small-town feel that you want from a family home: the countryside is stunning in a cultivated way.

Aficionados: a few wealthy Londoners have bought weekend homes in the town but mainly it's populated by families who have lived there for decades. Visitors support a superior little café and the art gallery.

Historical interest: the town and its castle were built in the Middle Ages by men from Berwick. Cromwell slighted the castle in 1649 and locals later used any bits they could find to build Montgomery into a fine new Georgian town. When the Earl of Powis refused to let the railway line come within a few miles of Montgomery, power and commercial activity transferred to a new town (known as Newtown), built alongside the Shropshire Union Canal and railway line. Montgomery ossified as a result. Today it's like stepping back in time.

Time to visit: from the churchyard you often get lovely sunsets across the Camlad valley, so it's best to arrive in the afternoon, have tea at the Castle kitchen tearooms and walk round the town before, hopefully, seeing Corndon bathed in the setting sun.

How to get there: The M6/M54/A5/A458 will get you to Welshpool, from which there is a verdant route out of the Severn Valley through Forden (A490/B4388), which affords a view of the whole town as you approach south along the old Roman road.

OS reference: Sheet 137, Grid Ref: 223/965.

Also nearby: the Dragon pub and hotel is fine but not cheap; the Cottage Inn is cozy; best is The Three Tuns, which brews its own beer.

ADRIAN MOURBY

A chorus of anxious voices

Classical musicians and composers alike have reacted with horror to the threat of a hostile takeover and asset stripping at Boosey & Hawkes, the music publisher

A Boosey & Hawkes tuba being put through its paces before it is allowed to leave the instrument factory in Edgware, north London

MacMillan: a B&H composer

Birtwistle: published by B&H

Sir Harrison Birtwistle grew up playing a Boosey & Hawkes clarinet. James MacMillan's first instrument was a second-hand Hawkes cornet. Birtwistle, our most eminent composer and famous for his uncompromising independence, chose to be published by Boosey & Hawkes in 1994, making it clear where the company's reputation stood. MacMillan, too, is now a Boosey & Hawkes composer. When his Clarinet Concerto was premiered this year on a Hawkes clarinet, he felt he had come full circle.

They are not alone. Every child in Britain who is actively involved in music will have hired his or her first instrument from Boosey & Hawkes. As the children grow up, they buy professional instruments and scores from the same company. But this international music institution, revered equally for the quality of its instruments, educational music and steadfast commitment to living composers, is now under threat of a hostile takeover bid that could result in division and, inevitably, asset stripping.

The music world has reacted with shock to the news. Boosey & Hawkes, with profits of £7.7 million last year, is something of a miracle in the current classical climate. The rub is that 45.3 per cent of its shares are owned by Carl Fischer Inc, a private American publisher. Its shareholders, since the recent death of Walter Connor, their president and former Boosey & Hawkes chairman, want to sell to the highest bidder. The concern is that no one buyer, except B&H itself, would have the competence to take on the whole company. Inevitably, a large instrument manufacturer would want the lucrative Hawkes division and one of the music multinationals — such as EMI, Warners or Polygram — would see the publishing back catalogue as ripe for exploitation.

Wednesday's letter to *The Times* from the great and the good of the music world was a call to arms. Boosey & Hawkes is far more than a highly successful classical music company. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the future of music depends on it. Since the bold moves of Ralph Hawkes, Erwin Stein and Ernst Roth to garner composers such as Kodaly, Stravinksy, Britten, Strauss, Bartok and Prokofiev during and after the last war, it has had an astonishing record of musical patronage, of choosing the right composers and building a new repertoire for musical posterity.

Only this year Magnus Lindberg, one of the most exciting and established Finnish composers, asked to join its list. He will be in good company. The senior Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina, whose Viola Concerto received rave reviews this week, is one of B&H's.

As for its Americans, the list reads like a roll call of the century's greatest, from Copland and Bernstein to the eminent modernist Elliot Carter and the vibrant minimalists Steve Reich, John Adams and Michael Torke.

In taking on these composers, often when they are young and unknown, B&H directors do not think of short-term profit. Music publishers nurturing new music have to think in decades and centuries, not financial years. While Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto, still in the 75-year copyright, will be a big earner, music written today will not.

As Birtwistle explains: "Music publishing is not generally understood. Book publishers sell books, but music publishers create scores and parts for performance. My scores are available, but you wouldn't buy one; it would cost about £100.

"I am writing a piece for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. [Daniel] Barenboim insists he has the printed parts as soon as they are written. This is a major undertaking which would be impossible for me — I'd need another two years. If I hadn't had a publisher, I don't know what would have become of me. I'd be sitting in some garret writing for small ensembles."

The concern is that a pop-dominated multinational would have no interest in maintaining this expensive service, as MacMillan explains: "I have been nurtured by Boosey's. I chose them, ironically, because the name is synonymous with security. They take personal care of their composers. They discuss my work and what I'd like to do, advise me on performances and commissions, produce marvellous scores, turn out orchestral parts with amazing speed — a pop publisher would have no idea what's involved. It would be a tragedy if a shark came in to milk the back catalogue and run down the contemporary music side. The whole edifice could crumble."

When he left Universal Edition in 1994, Birtwistle chose Boosey's "because they were a thoroughly professional organisation". He is sceptical that a company dominated by high-sales recordings would have any commitment to the laborious art of publishing and promoting new music: "They wouldn't be remotely interested. They may produce some contemporary discs, but I'd say that was pretty cosmetic, just window-dressing."

It is not only the living composers who fear the threat of a multinational takeover. The estates of deceased composers are just as anxious that their music be sensitively handled and protected, as Oleg Prokofiev and John Stravinsky registered in *The Times* letter. But even if a reputable firm were to take over the publishing side, the splitting of the company would have huge repercussions, not least by destroying a powerful brand. The two sides of the business reinforce each other and, bridged by the strong educational music division, provide a complete music service. One early casualty could be the instrument factory in Edgware, north London, if a foreign company, such as Yamaha or Steinway/Selmer, took it over.

The board of Boosey & Hawkes has indicated that it is exploring ways to provide the shareholders of Carl Fischer with liquidity and those of B&H with a continuing interest in a listed company. This would be balm to the ears of the minority shareholders who, at the recent B&H AGM, made it clear they had no interest in selling their valuable shares and getting stung with capital gains tax. Technically, they could block any proposed deal.

In a classical music world obsessed with short-term profits, compilations and regurgitation of every sort, the integrity, long-term vision and business acumen of B&H make it a commodity beyond price.

HELEN WALLACE

- *The author is deputy editor of* BBC Music *magazine.*

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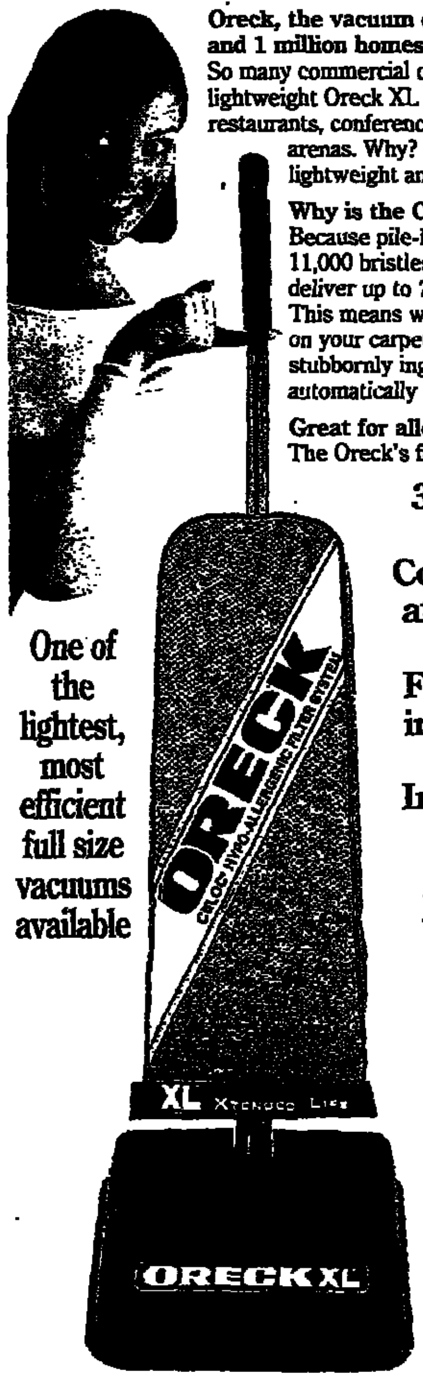

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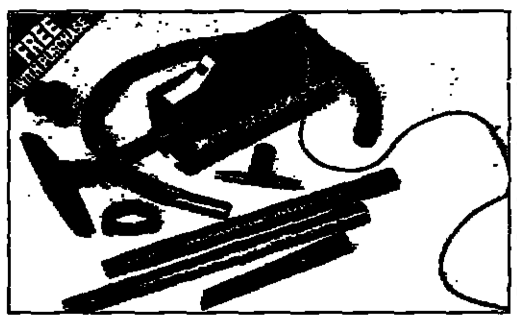

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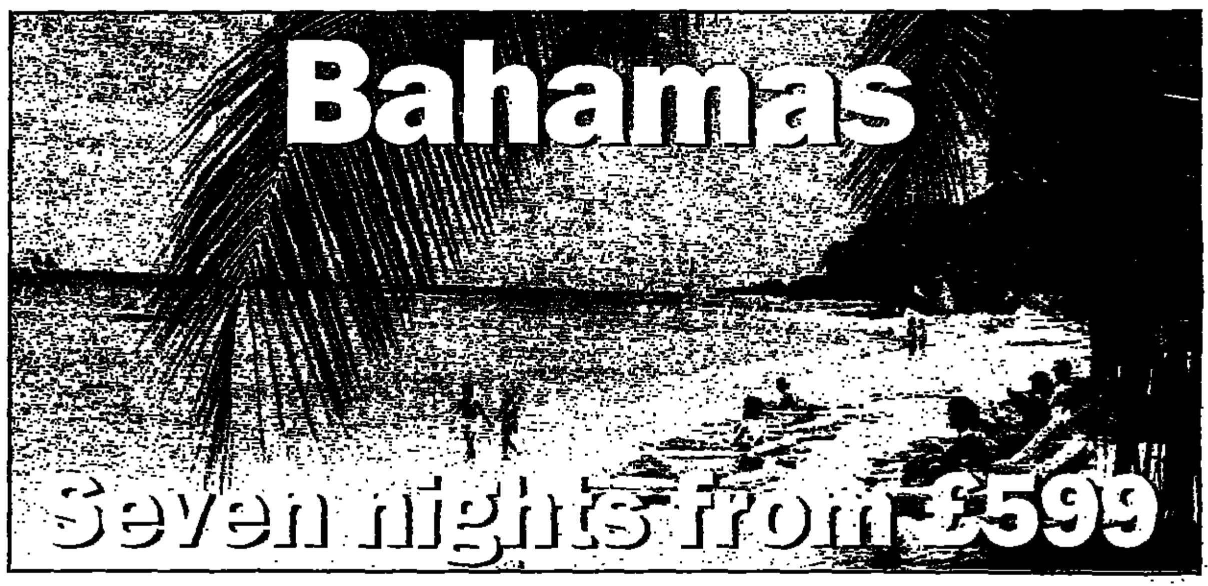

With sun-kissed tropical islands and warm blue seas, it's easy to see why the Bahamas are such a popular destination. Although they are offshore from America, they still remain traditionally British, with a distinctive Caribbean atmosphere.

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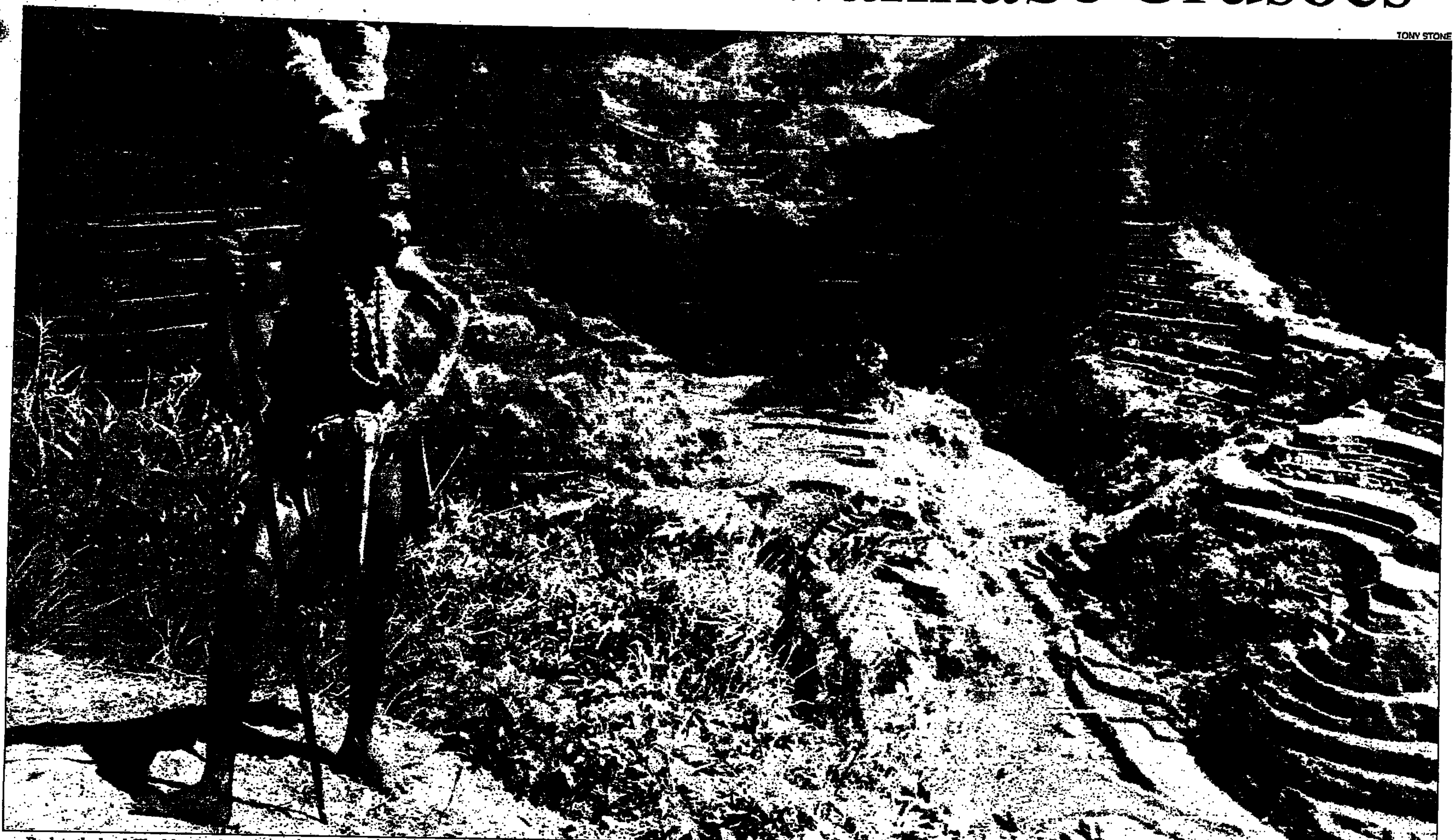


TONY STONE

Back to the land: The islands of the Mindaneo area of the Philippines offer a surprisingly green backdrop of rolling hills, but the Filipinos themselves do not regard this fine tropical landscape as their most important attraction

Dreams of an idyllic island hideaway can be realised in the southern Philippines

"Excuse me, Madam", — and for a moment he looked embarrassed — "but to reduce the swelling, we urinate on it." He could have saved his embarrassment. This was practical knowledge I was happy to know: a theoretical lesson by my Filipino guide, should I snorkel my way into the local enemy — prickly sea urchins, found in their dozens in the shallow waters of the southern islands in the Davao Gulf.

We spoke solemnly about other aquatic unpleasantnesses and then, resuming his chatty, anecdotal style — the Filipinos are not a formal race — my guide turned to the subject of green turtles.

The southern islands in the Mindaneo area, forming the bottom tip of vast 7,000 island archipelago, have been marked for a kind of tourist debut. Long known in East Asia as a tropical retreat, the islands are now being promoted for the Western market, backed by foreign investment and lots of local confidence.

For those used to the tropics, it is a reassuringly familiar scene: clear lagoons and curvy white beaches, an army or two of palm trees and the brightness of a blue sky. The surprising aspect of the Mindaneo area is its hills: a backdrop of rolling green (reminiscent of Derbyshire) climaxing in Mount Apo, the local Himalaya, rising 2,000 metres from the gulf and looking on a cloudy day rather like a Japanese watercolour.

The Filipinos do not list this fine tropical landscape as their first attraction. This is reserved for their native charm. We are "halo-halo", I was told, or "mix-mix" (also the name of a local ice cream); this is a reference to their long colonial history, the advantages of which they view with entertaining irreverence. "Our women are beautiful, powerful and this we get from the Spanish; we are relaxed, philosophical [the Spanish again — 90 per cent of the poplation are Catholic] and most important of all" — here a broad smile, possibly at the contradiction — "we know how to have a good time."

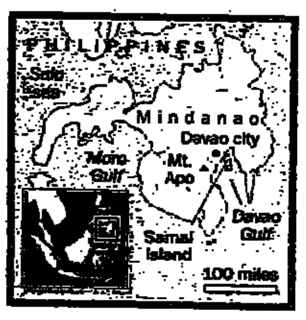
No, my hosts insisted, this was not a legacy from the Americans. Although here for 50 years during military occupation, what they have left behind stops at widespread colloquial English and a taste for Winston cigarettes and army Jeeps, now used as taxis for tourists and locals alike.

"Yes, we are the brown Americans in Asia, *but* ..."

But their happy-go-lucky attitude is native in origin. Local fishermen, greeting you from their fragile houses-on-stilts, will be, as welcoming as the hotel staff. Everyone has a smile — not least of all the dozens of children who swarm around you and your camera, bees around a honeypot, their innocent vanity begging to provide you with numerous unnecessary portraits. Strange to suggest travelling so far for the advantage of being smiled at so often, but it adds an enjoyable Diana, Princess of Wales aspect to your holiday.

The islands are being cautiously developed along ecological guidelines. The small luxury beach resort on Samal Island is called Pearl Farm (no pearls left, alas) and is preserved as an intimate alternative to the hell of consumer tourism. Built in natural materials to merge with the island's contours and colours, its individual cottages (no ordinary hotel here) open out, back-garden-like, on to white sands and coral beach. Some imitate traditional tribal fishermen's houses — wooden huts on stilts — so that, waking bleary-eyed for breakfast, you are surrounded by shoals of silver fish swimming dizzily round and round in the clear waters.

At night island paths are lit by paper lanterns. In the semi-dark, private parties enjoy beach barbecues (local marlin fish and lobster), sitting cross-legged by the water and served on trestle tables by cautious waiters who dodge the night-time hermit crabs making their way to bed, zig-zagging up the beach.



All this is the stuff of good romance where adults start to behave like children, burying themselves up to their thighs in white sand at midnight and subversively disregarding resort rules — feeding local mangosteen fruits to the resident sea-turtle.

Sometimes such communing with unfamiliar tropical nature can be overwhelming. A Singaporean friend, sleepy with drink and warm tropical air, was persuaded by malevolent factions that the background birdsong accompanying our beach supper — unnaturally throbbing through the dark — was really, truly, a Sony recording on auto-rewind, hidden in the vegetation around us. It took three waiters to dissuade her from rummaging in dwarf palm trees and bushes of bougainvillea, trying to find the volume control and turn down the sound. No one ever said that being washed up on a tropical island is a culturally dynamic experience. It is not. But it is — perhaps too — thoroughly relaxing.

Of course, the south Philippines is a long way to go just for warm water and a clear view of the night sky. But the diving is excellent: wet-suited aquanauts return from the deep, cheerful as puppies, telling tales of bizarre-shaped corals in fantastic colours and surreal encounters with benevolent turtles.

The tourist board likes to boast that it possesses the only island for rent. Buena Vista — eight hectares of palm trees and yours for $400 (£270) a day (up to five people) — is fast becoming a designer island. The former resident fishing family have been relocated and, in their absence, Indian peacocks have been introduced. They mill around the sands, pecking nervously at the driftwood, suspicious of huge blue starfish washed up on the shoreline and hidden in the coral debris.

It is the quietest place I have ever been — there is no traffic for miles — and, provided with your own cook and staff of waiters, would be a fine retreat for wannabe Robinson Crusoes.

I half-suspect though that the Filipinos hope their guests, lulled by this paradise experience, might spontaneously develop, Jekyll and Hyde style, a rebellious desire for lewd entertainment. They have certainly provided for the event. A boat trip at night across the lagoons (Dante gliding through the Inferno has nothing on this) transports you to the bright lights of Davao city — and an arena of promiscuous leisure. Baccarat, blackjack and craps are big in Davao — as are karaoke, uncompromising female striptease, sweaty discos and late-night shopping.

However, like Cinderella's godmother I must issue a warning: do not wait to see Davao at dawn. The real delights of the Philippines are the islands and reefs, not the modern urban development. Frolic for the evening, but be sure to catch the boat back to paradise.

SOPHIE JAMES

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS FACT FILE

■ The author travelled to Davao via Singapore on Singapore Airlines (0181-747 0007) and the subsidiary airline Silk Air (book through Singapore Airlines). Fares start from £600 (exclusive of tax) from September 1 to December 9.

■ Brochures for the Pearl Farm Beach Resort, Malipano Island — an extension of the resort, which offers private villas — can be obtained through the Philippine Department of Tourism in London on 0171-499 5443.

■ Prices per night for Pearl Farm Mandaya House beachfront cottages begin at $241 (£145).
Buena Vista can be booked for day groups (up to 30 people) for $1,200 (£750).
Both the Pearl Farm Beach Resort and Buena Vista can be booked through the Insular Century Hotel (006 382 234 3050).

■ Diving equipment can be hired (beginner lessons available) throughout resorts in the Mindanao area.

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Ghosts of Manila*, by James Hamilton-Paterson (Vintage, £6.99); *Little Brown Brother*, by Leon Wolff (OUP, £9,99); *Lonely Planet Philippines* (Travel Survival Kit, £12.99).

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TRAVEL CONTINUES ON PAGE 22

هكذا من الأصل

Turkey: a cool reception for reader **Barbara Bleiman**; and an idyllic coastal odyssey for **Jill Crawshaw**

A nightmare with a happy ending

The haunting, discordant wail of the call to prayer wafts from the minarets over the village. It is a quarter to five in the morning and it finds me already at prayer, begging with a passion that there should be a return flight to Gatwick that very morning.

We have spent our first night in Turkey, dressed in all our clothes and our pyjamas, shivering under a single blanket in sub-zero temperatures, in a bare room devoid of heat or comfort, with a curtain that does not quite cover the window and a balcony door through which the wintry winds of Asia have been howling all night.

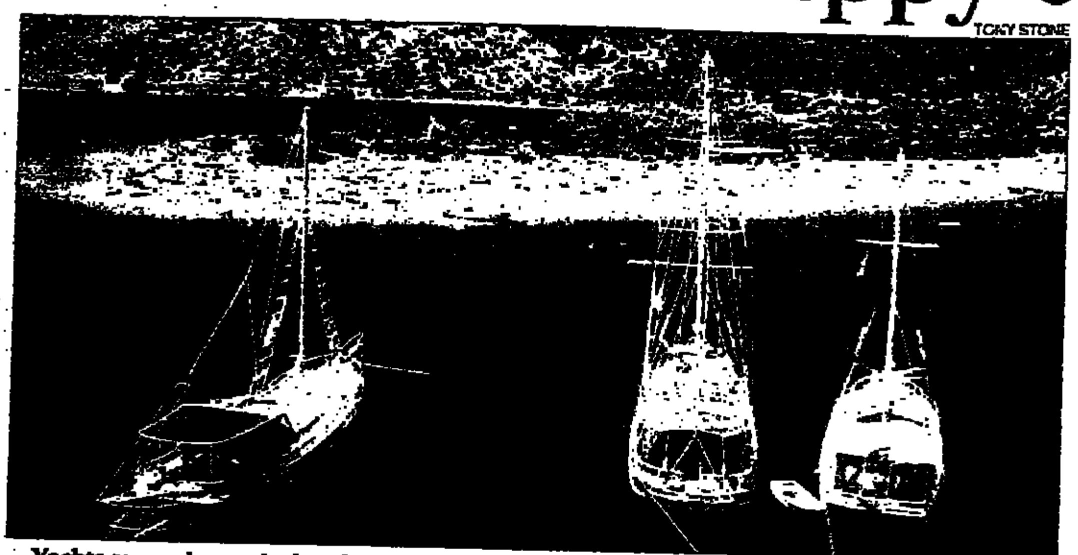
The lovely apartment we had been promised is not yet built and the guest-house is empty, save for one other family from Kent who have been mad enough to be lured by the same offer of a week in Calis Beach in late March. "It's winter," the locals keep telling us. "The season has not started. Everything closed. Swimming pools empty." As if we hadn't noticed.

We had arrived at Dalaman airport at two in the morning, to be met by a bus from the guest-house. Hurtling through the mountains in an unheated bus, with two sleepy children slumped on top of us, we had been counting the minutes till our arrival in the lovely little guest-house that had been described to us. After a good night's sleep, we thought, we would rise late, take a dip in the pool and have a breakfast of freshly baked bread, olives and fruit juice, looking out towards the azure waters of the Mediterranean.

It is morning. We force ourselves out of bed into the bare drabness of the room. A short time later, standing in the piles of rubble and scrubby bush that surround the guest-house, the other English family materialises, our horror mirrored in their faces. "Cold," they quiver. "So, so cold."

It is our first day in Turkey and we are sitting squashed into a dolmus bus, on our way into Fethiye, the local town, to try to salvage the wreck that is our holiday. We are feeling low, but as the bus pulls into the town, the sun begins to streak through the clouds and we are inescapably drawn by the scenes around us; white domed mosques jostling with fruit stalls and an eclectic jumble of ragged houses; boys in spruce navy blazers and crisp white shirts on their way to school; women in white headscarfs and baggy eastern trousers going to the bazaar.

Fethiye is warm and inviting. There is a promenade that runs the length of the seafront, fringed by gardens and walkways, with children's playgrounds, palm trees and views out across the bay to snow-tipped mountains. Shoreline bars are preparing for the season: at the harbour, fishing boats and yachts sway lazily. Our spirits rise.


TONY STONE

Yachts moored near the beach at Olüdeniz. Out of season there is only a sprinkling of tourists

We find a hotel right on the harbour, with a rooftop restaurant with views out across the bay. All we want to know is whether there is heating. Are there plenty of blankets? The bemused hotel clerk gives us every assurance. We later discover that the family from Kent has been there before us.

We book in, hire a car and drive off to collect our belongings and extricate ourself from the Guest-house from Hell.

The hotel is incredibly cheap — clean, with soft white towels, hot water, friendly staff and spectacular views — but costing less than £20 a night for all of us. We have hired a car at off-season prices. Food in restaurants looks fresh and appetising. It is also outrageously cheap. We eat a huge meal of savoury pastries, filled with feta cheese and dill or spiced meat, followed by delicate sweet pastries made from pistachios, walnuts and ground almonds, soaked in honey, washed down with apple tea and colas. The bill comes to less than £5.

Driving out of Fethiye later in the week, we discover the beautiful beaches at Oludeniz, with its warm lagoon. In March there is just a sprinkling of other tourists, many of whom have come to paraglide from the 6,000ft mountain tops overlooking the resort.

Everyone we meet is friendly. In fact we begin to wonder if it is just to separate us from our money. But even in tourist areas there is a gentility and kindness that is deeper than our cynical thinking can fathom.

At a beach restaurant in Oludeniz, it turns out that the owner spends the winter in Manchester and the summer in Turkey. He is not yet geared up for tourist meals but offers us what he is having for his own lunch, a set meal for £2 each. He is delighted that we appreciate his "real" Turkish food — yoghurt and mint soup, spicy beans and tomatoes, pasta served with butter and goat's-milk yoghurt, spinach stew with poached egg.

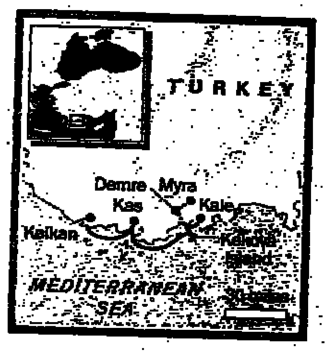
In a predominantly Muslim country, I had expected trouble from men but I am treated with courtesy and directness. But it is our blond-haired, blue-eyed seven-year-old son who elicits the warmest responses of all, not from the Turkish women but from the men. They make a bee-line for him, patting his head, lifting him high in the air, cuddling him and gesturing to us that we should depart at once and leave him there.

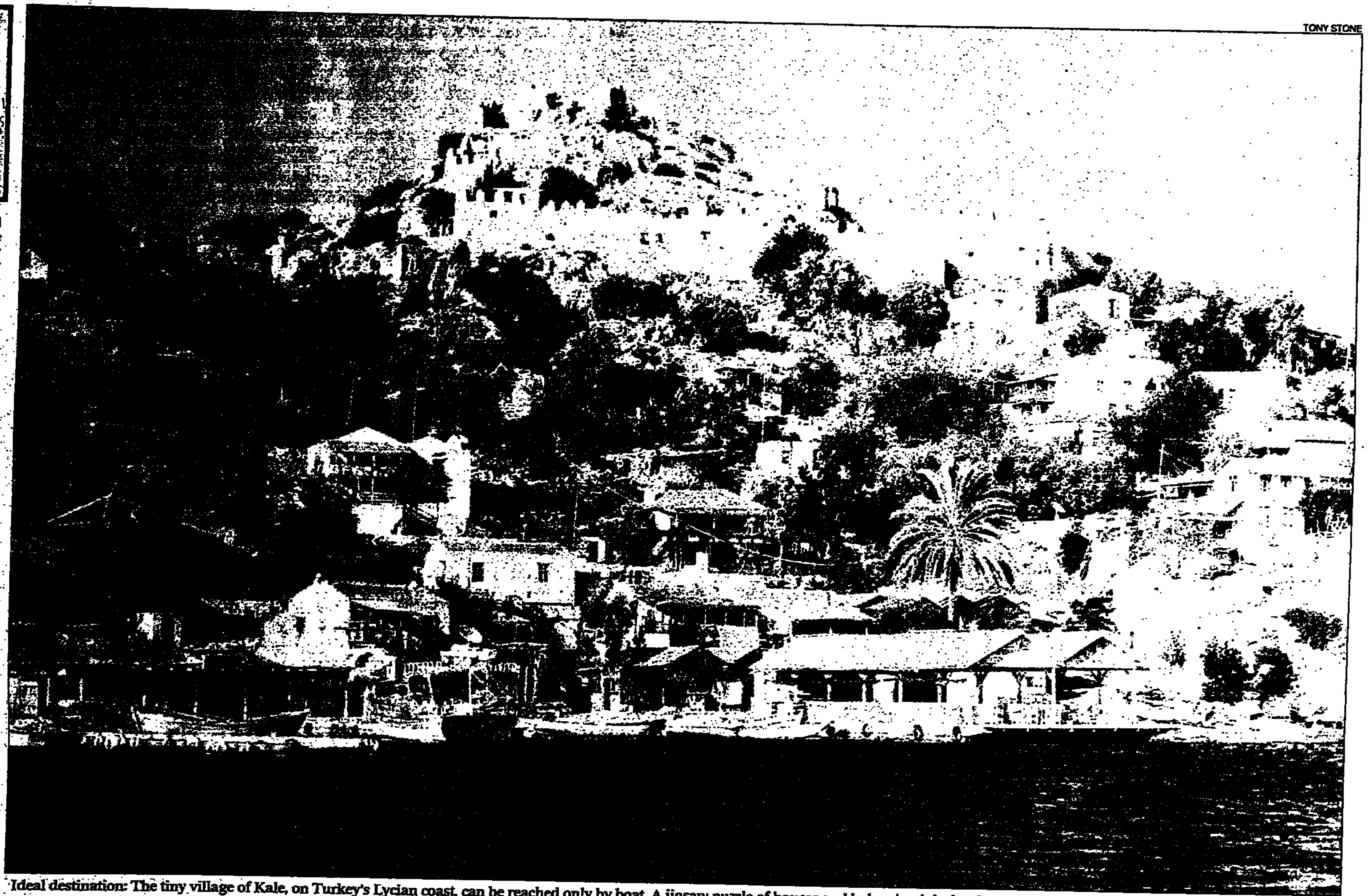
Our equally delightful ten-year-old daughter looks on with bewilderment as to what they could possibly see in her grotty little brother and relief that she is exempt from this treatment. We explain that kissing and cuddling her is off their agenda as it might be misconstrued. We notice the warmth between males and wonder what has happened to public, innocently affectionate behaviour between men in our own society.

Easter in Turkey, after our nightmare beginning, has been just fine. The nights have been perishing — London has been far warmer — but we have had the benefits of no crowds, off-season prices and lots of friendly attention.

Waiting to catch our plane at Dalaman, we meet the package people who were on the flight out with us. Perhaps next time we will swap our rather risky go-it-alone approach for the safety of a big-name package in a large resort. "Good holiday?" we ask. Their faces are glum. "Freezing rooms! No heating! Rain most days up that end of the coast! Nice reps but not much they could do." We can't help but feel a little smug, and immediately start planning our next do-it-yourself adventure.

Sunken cities and half-buried memories




TONY STONE

Ideal destination: The tiny village of Kale, on Turkey's Lycian coast, can be reached only by boat. A jigsaw puzzle of houses and balconies, it is dominated by the crenellated ramparts of a Crusader castle

"Welcome aboard ... and please take off your shoes." For Captain Sinan, *Levante*, whose pristine wooden decks he was protecting, was the holy of holies. And indeed, at 88ft she was the queen of gulets, those wooden boats built like the traditional former sponge-divers' fleets.

However, it is doubtful whether any of the sponge fishermen would recognise the eight air-conditioned cabins with flush loos and showers, cushioned sunbeds on deck and other creature comforts with which we were cosseted on our mini-odyssey along the Lycian coast.

Having stowed our baggage (in proper wardrobes, no less), we were off, manoeuvring between the clutch of yachts, gulets and fishing boats cramming the harbour at Kalkan. A picturesque jumble of local stone houses, restaurants, shops and a few smart hotels, Kalkan can no longer be called a fishing village, but mercifully has not yet acquired the status of a full-blown resort, probably because its beach is so meagre.

Our itinerary, if we can so dignify our meandering wake, lay south-east, encompassing one of the most dramatically beautiful and unspoilt coasts in the Mediterranean. It has been protected for centuries by the brooding Taurus Mountains behind and only recently breached by a road linking it with Dalaman airport and the fleshpots further west.

Believed to originate in Crete, the Lycians proved as wild and daunting as their landscape. This was one of the last regions to submit to being incorporated into the Roman province of Asia Minor, and the inhabitants were feared as sea raiders until the British Navy dominated the coast in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was the remains of this proud race, who built fine cities and buried their dead in ornate rock tombs, that provided the culture stops on our voyage and prevented our minds getting soggy with too much leisure and pleasure.

Maybe if *Levante* had carried her full complement of 16 passengers, or maybe if you happened to join a party dominated by over-hearty Sloanes or beer-swilling boors, life afloat would be less than idyllic. But in our case, with the boat less than full, there was plenty of room to read or doze stretched out under a shady canopy, to sunbathe on the roof, to ponder the rhythm of the wine-dark seas and to watch the spectacular sunsets over glasses of chilled wine.

Breakfast was always on deck at 8am, with bread and cheese, salami, olives, tomatoes and local honey, and then it was up anchor and away. At some time in the morning we would steal into a deserted cove for swimming in the clearest water I have ever experienced, and sometimes we would venture ashore.

Kas was the first port of call, to plunder the carpet shops and explore its jasmin-scented alleys lined with old wooden Ottoman balconies. Like Kalkan, Kas has got just about the right balance between local life and tourism and I found it charming.

Back on board, Sabri, the ship's cook, would have made lunch — a feast of aubergine, courgette and tomato casserole, "boreks", the mouth-watering cheese pastries, heaped salads and yoghurt.

In the afternoons we would moor in the lee of uninhabited islands and over sunken cities such as Kekova, with its ruined arches and lintels shimmering enticingly in the translucent water. Half-submerged or scattered randomly on the shore were the squat stone sarcophagi in which Lycians buried their lesser ranks. Their nobles were entombed with all the appendages necessary for a comfortable afterlife (including, some say, their wives) in decorated rock tombs carved out of the hillside at Myra, which we visited on an excursion from Demre.

There is little of interest in the market town of Demre itself, though it was once the home of a 4th-century bishop, St Nicolas — "Noel Baba" to the Turks, Santa Claus to us, who earned his reputation, it is said, by dropping purses of gold down the chimneys of poor village girls as dowries to enable them to marry.

The basilica in his honour now lies in ruins among the tranquil, shady rose gardens on the outskirts of Demre, between the St Nicolas bar-disco — which has also seen better days — and a scruffy block of flats.

After dusty Demre, it was a relief to return to *Levante*; we had become just as possessive about her sleek patrician lines as our captain. Every so often a lesser breed of gulet attempted to overtake us, but we steered clear to find our own bit of paradise.

By common consent, Kale was the highlight, the tiny village that could be reached only by boat and which was crowned by the crenellated ramparts of a Crusader castle. Among a jigsaw puzzle of houses and pensions, balconies dripped bougainvillea and gardens brimmed with hollyhocks and figs; children played among the ruins of sarcophagi and the women displayed their embroidery on fallen columns. These were the same women who chased us energetically to sell their wares as we scrambled up to the castle.

We sailed homewards out of Kale into yet another glorious sunset, browsed over the captain's intriguing old Admiralty charts, lingered long into the night over supper and wine — and spun our web of dreams for next year.

FACT FILE

- **Savile Row Tours** (0171-625 3001) offers three and seven-night cruises on *Levante* from Kalkan, which can be combined with other holidays ashore at Kalkan, Kas or Kale.
- The three-night cruise costs £190-£220, including all meals with wine or soft drinks, and shore excursions. Seven-night cruises cost £330-£390. Children sharing with adults cost £70 for a three-night cruise, £125 for seven nights.
- For 1998 Savile is offering a Lycian coast cruise primarily under sail on *Aegina*, a 130ft three-masted schooner with family accommodation.
- **Visas:** British visitors need a £10 visa on entry at Turkish airports.
- **Getting around:** Car hire costs £255-£275 a week inclusive. A dolmus, or shared taxi, is one of the cheapest and most convenient ways to get around between towns and beaches. Taxis are also inexpensive.
- **Reading:** The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Ancient Turkey, A Traveller's History*, by Seton Lloyd (British Museum Press, £10.95). *The White Castle*, by Orhan Pamuk (Faber, £6.99). *Cadogan: Western Turkey* (£12.99).

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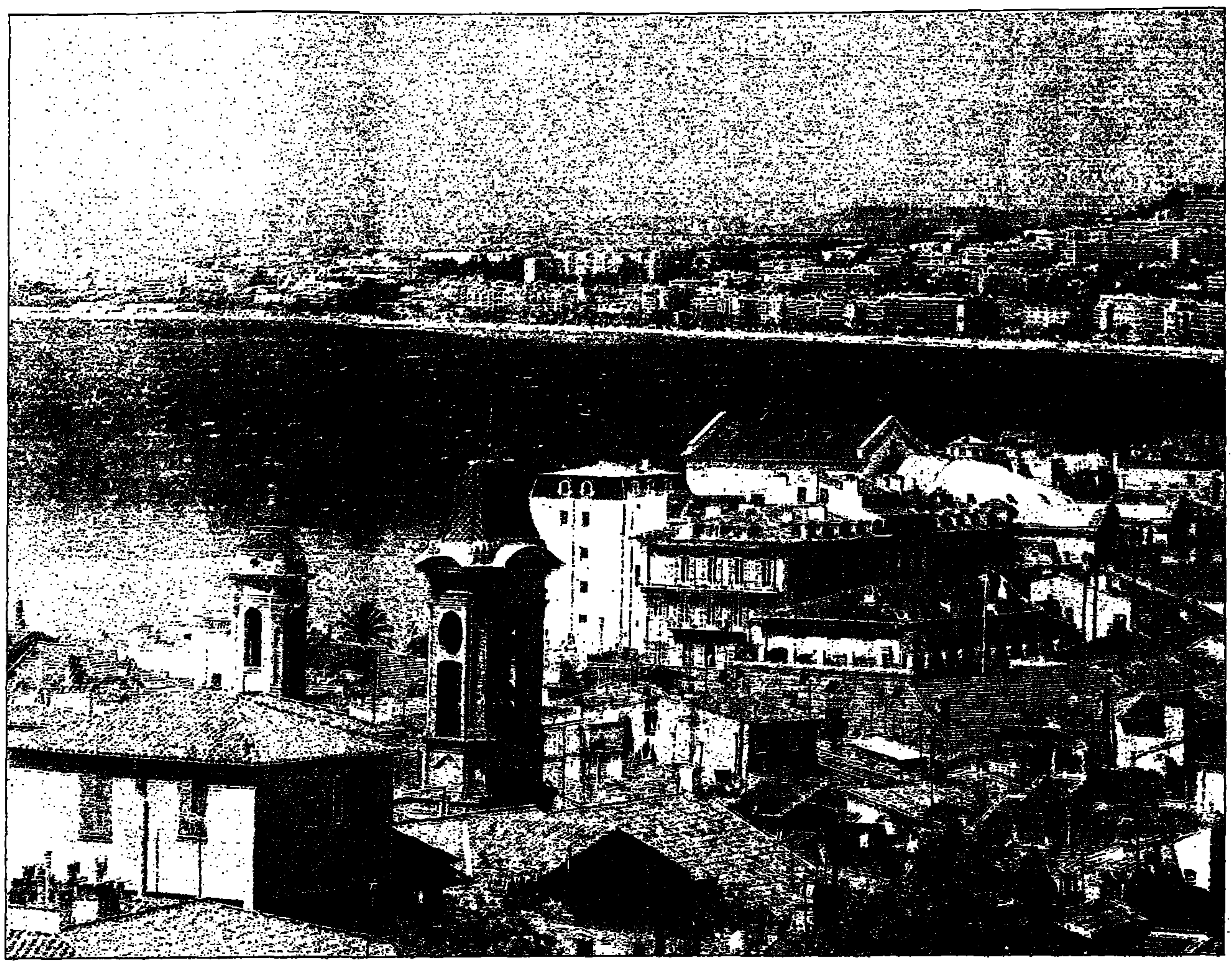
France: Exploring the old city and the hills of Nice; and popping over to Impressionist Honfleur …



There's modern luxury in view when you look west over the terracotta roofs of Nice, but most travellers prefer the delights of the old town, such as the flower market

Old gems beyond the glitz

Whoever said Nice is a city of olives, stony beaches and pizza got it wrong. Across terracotta rooftops and gleaming mosaic tiles is the bustle of Old Nice.

The daily Marché aux Fleurs at Cours Saleya exudes Italian-style vivacity and heady spicy aromas. Old women in coloured aprons sell morning-picked vegetables and hot *socca* (egg-pancake); weather-beaten old men offer local and Corsican cheeses. There's fish, too. And on Mondays, the market becomes *the Marché Brocante, selling* antiques and bric-a-brac at low prices.

Follow the aroma of fresh bread to André Exspuno's *bakery in Rue Droite where*, twice a day, in an old wood-burning oven, he bakes at least 32 different types of bread, including stone-ground shepherd's, wholewheat onion, garlic, nut, olive and thyme breads, and sweet squares of *tourte blette*, a sweet double-crusted tart of Swiss chard, pine nuts and raisins dusted with icing sugar.

Just off the market is La Meranda bistro; when there's a rickety old bicycle outside with an empty pannier, the locals know Jean Guisti is back from market and cooking at his stove. Guisti's dishes are the essence of Niçois cuisine. *Stockfish, the pungent signature dish of Nice*, was brought from Norway in the 18th century by trading vessels which fetched olive oil from *Nice. At La Meranda it's made* with dried cod soaked for four days in a barrel of running water, which sits in the corner of the 20-seater bistro. The fermented fish is then stewed for hours with onions, tomatoes and white wine. It goes well with the house wine from the Var, as do the lightly fried courgette flowers and the fragrant strands of fresh spinach pasta topped with pesto.

Guisti does not accept credit cards, has no telephone and refuses to serve anyone he *dislikes*, but at *lunch* and dinner the place is packed. Only venture in if the "*Complet*" ("Full") notice is not posted on the door, or *you'll hear Guisti complain* from his small but spotless kitchen: "Can't you read? We're *complet*."

Skip dessert and head for *Square* Rossetti *and, in the* shade of the Baroque-style Cathedrale Saint-Reparate, choose from 70 flavours of home-made Italian ice-creams (including lavender, violet, rhubarb, tomato-basil, thyme and maraschino) prepared by Maison Fenocchio.

At the foot of elegant, shady Cimiez hill forsake the baking sun for Marc Chagall's Musée Biblique. The low-slung modern building is *decorated with stained-glass* windows and mosaics donated by the artist. The Zen-like museum is among olive trees and houses the famous "Biblical Message" *and the 17 paintings* that make up the series "Song of Songs". Based on the Old Testament, they incorporate Jewish folklore and Chagall's *memories* of his childhood in Russia.

On the brow of Cimiez hill stands the imposing Hotel Regina, where Queen Victoria sometimes took up residence to escape the harsh British winters. By-passing the flesh-pots of Nice, she cruised by ship along the coast to visit Cap Ferrat and Cap d'Antibes. *Her statue gazes down the hill* with a puzzled expression, no doubt a little perturbed that Marks & Spencer has opened in Nice.

Another famous Regina resident was Henri Matisse, who died while decorating the walls of his room with sensuous nudes. When staff found *him, he still had a paintbrush* in his hand, and a quizzical look on his face.

The entire span of Matisse's life is housed in his former *studio*, a *handsome* 17th-century villa opposite the Hotel Regina. The base of the museum was a donation by Matisse and now contains a vast collection of sculptures and personal possessions. The old boy is buried in the nearby Cistercian monastery of Cimiez, which overlooks the city. His secluded grave is in an olive grove, once owned by the artist, and within ear's reach of the annual July jazz festival.

High on the hillside above *Nice the vineyards of Bellet* have produced wine since the 15th century. As you approach the village of St Roman-de-Bellet, take a sharp left at the *Auberge de Bellet. On a little* side road you will find the vilage store run by Jacques and Edith Plumail.

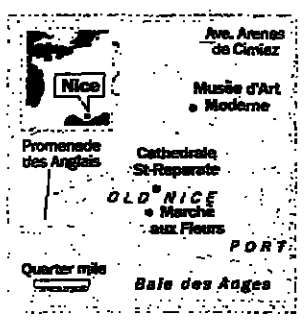
The couple speak English *and specialise in* picnics. I bought steaming paella, a selection of delicate local goat's cheese, a cartwheel of *tarte tropezienne* and a bottle of Bellet white wine.

The best of the Bellet wines is produced at the 15th-century Château de Bellet, run by Ghislaine and Catherine de Charnacé, descendants of Baron and Baroness Bellet. Forty thousand bottles of red, white and rosé are produced annually on just ten hectares of land, where alpine winds freshen the earth and salty sea breezes temper the hot summer sun. M de Charnacé may part with a few bottles, but most are spoken for well in advance.

On returning to Nice, raise a glass of red in the bar of L'Univers, on Boulevard Jean *Jaures, to Jacques Médecin*, the discredited but much-loved former mayor of Nice, last heard of in Punte del Este in Uruguay, farming giant garlic to export to France.

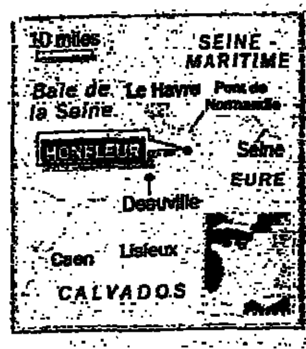
MARGARET KEMP

NICE FACT FILE



- The author travelled with Montpelier Travel (0171-589 3400), which mixes and matches latest hotel and flight prices to suit.
- Other British tour operators include Unicorn Holidays (01582 834400), which offers three nights in the Relais & Chateaux *Mas d'Artigny* property with flights and car hire from £740. Several airlines fly direct to Nice, including British Midland (0345 554554), with flights from £149 return.
- *Accommodation: Hotel les Orangers (00 334 9387 5141)* offers B&B at £20 a night.
On the plush side, the seafront Hotel Negresco (00 334 9316 6400) has a two-night deal for two people at £180 per person, including fruit, cocktails, breakfast in bed, newspapers and one dinner. The deal includes a pass to the 28 museums in 13 towns participating in this summer's major exhibition *The Côte d'Azur and Modern Art 1918-1958.*
Outside Nice, and perched on a cliff top, the Hotel Chevre d'Or (0800 964470) has four-poster beds and a sumptuous breakfast from £200 a night.
- There is free access to all Nice galleries and museums on Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2 and 9 and Dec 7. The *Visitez Sans Compter* is a "passport" offering unlimited access and priority entrance to 58 museums and monuments on the Côte d'Azur. For details call 00 334 9352 3325.
- The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Tender is the Night*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Penguin, £5.99); *Cadogan Guide, Côte d'Azur* (£12.99); *Michelin French Riviera* (£8.99).

Cider and duck with Boudin



Honfleur, on the Seine estuary, was once a day-trip by steamer from Le Havre; now it's an easy weekend break from London. The opening of the Pont de Normandie, the world's largest cable-supported bridge linking Honfleur to Le Havre, has brought the resort even closer.

You can drive off an overnight ferry in Le Havre, as I did, and be eating your croissants *by the harbour in Honfleur* 20 minutes later.

The new bridge has become a tourist sight in its own right, with a visitor centre, but to me *it is Honfleur's* older sights which appeal, such as the twin-naved church of St Catherine, built entirely of oak by 15th-century shipwrights to give thanks for the end of the Hundred Years War. Intended as a temporary building, the church survives today, separated from its belfry across the square. With a little imagination, you could be standing in an upturned ship.

The greatest pleasure is to be had in simply strolling the narrow streets, pausing for a *coffee here, a crêpe there, and* watching the boats bob up and down in the harbour.

The very names of the streets conjure up images from *the town's history*: Rue Brûlé (presumably it once burned down), Rue de la Prison, where the old 16th-century jail forms part of a museum.

As you wander along the Rue de la Petite Boucherie, spare a thought for the changing nature of commerce; this pretty lane of half-timbered houses and galleries was once a bustling thoroughfare dripping with blood from butchers' hooks.

Honfleur has long attracted artists, but its heyday came in the mid-19th century when Eugène Boudin and his friends formed the Honfleur school of painters, which later, as a result of a critic's barb, became known as the Impressionists. A group of them (including Boudin's pupil Monet) would meet at St Simeon's Farm to drink cider, play dominoes and paint. Then, "*la célèbre mère Toutain*" would "generously pour out cider under the apple trees". Now the farm is a Relais et Châteaux hotel, where a glass of cider costs a small fortune and, if you have £80 to spare, you can enjoy an eight-course banquet of langoustines, foie *gras, lobster and pigeon.*

I stayed at the Haras de la Griserie, a stud farm close to the village of Genneville, *four miles out of town.* The owners, Nadiana and Jean Ouaknine, are from Gascony and continue the culinary traditions of their native re*gion, keeping geese and ducks* and cooking with goose fat rather than Normandy butter.

The menu is best summed up as "100 things to do with a dead duck". But, after the *foie gras* and slices of grilled duck breast, with cheese and salad and apple tart and all for £20, who's complaining? But back to Boudin.

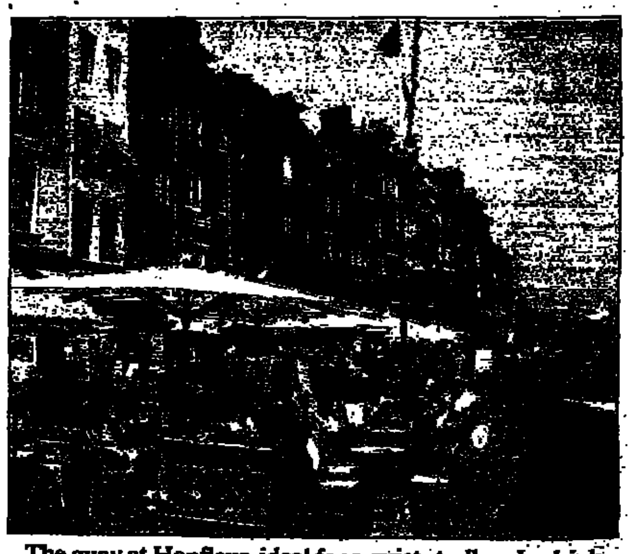
Much of the artist's work is on display in the the museum carrying his name, along with contemporary paintings of Honfleur which *show how* little it has changed in the past 200 years. As well as scenes of life at St Simeon's Farm — a woman breastfeeding, men drinking — *Boudin specialised* in paintings of "my little women"; society women on the beach at Trouville with their parasols and elegant frocks.

You can see their less modestly dressed successors on a drive along the coast to Trouville and swankier Deauville, where film stars gather each *August to buy racehorses*, walk *les plances* and wind down with a spot of thalassotherapy. But after a day among the jet-set, it is a relief to return to Honfleur, which may be pretty but is not pretentious. You don't have to *do* anything — just stroll along the quay, sit down, order a drink and become a part of the prettiest picture in France.

TONY KELLY

FACT FILE

- The author travelled with Calvados Tourism and P&O European Ferries. P&O (0990 980980) has three sailings daily from Portsmouth to Le Havre. Prices start at £59 for a three-day ticket, valid until Sept 14.
- The Pont de Normandie linking Le Havre to Honfleur has a toll of Fr32 (£3), which can be paid by credit card.
- Accommodation: La Fermé St Simeon, Rue Adolphe-Marais, has double rooms from £75, bookable through Relais et Châteaux (0800 960239). Haras de la Griserie, Genneville, 14600 Honfleur (00 332 31 987 452) has double rooms for £19; *breakfast £2.50, four-course dinner* with apératif and coffee, £15.
- Further information: Office de Tourism, Place Arthur Boudin, 14602 Honfleur (00 332 31 892 330), or France Information on 0891 244123 (calls charged 50p a min).
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (01710229 5260) recommends: *Cross Channel*, by Julian Barnes (Picador, £5.99); *Selected Short Stories*, by Guy de Maupassant (Penguin, £10); *Blue Guide*, Normandy (£9.99).



The quay at Honfleur, ideal for a quiet stroll and a drink

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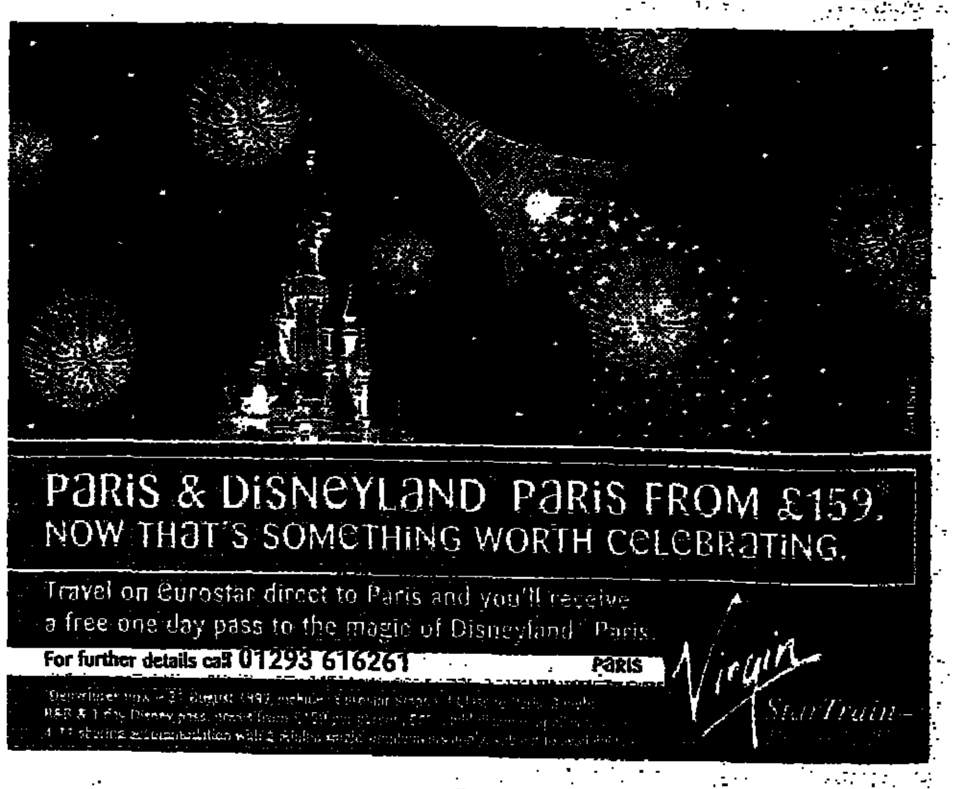
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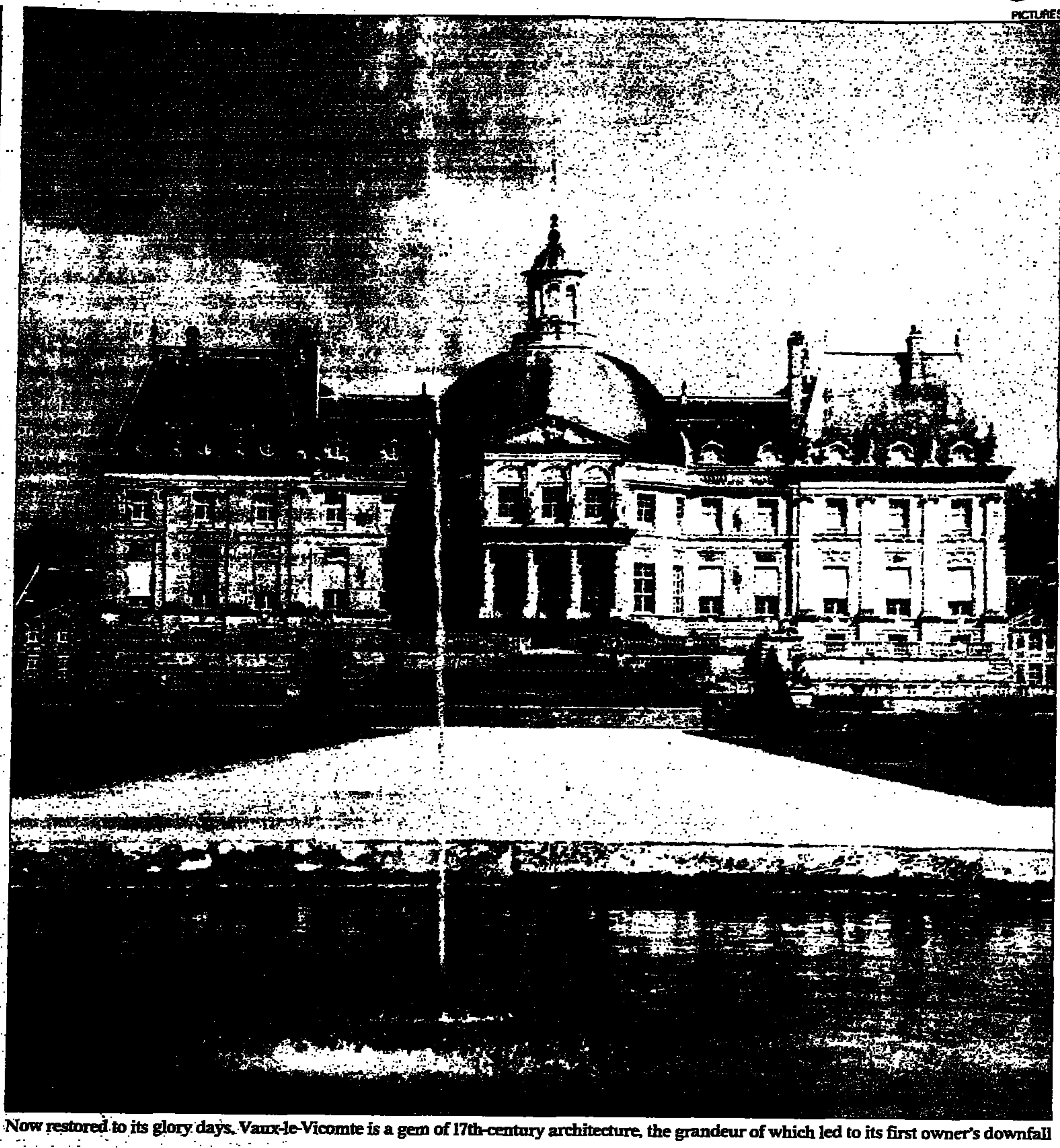
The magnificent Fontainebleau

PICTURES



Now restored to its glory days, Vaux-le-Vicomte is a gem of 17th-century architecture, the grandeur of which led to its first owner's downfall

On August 17, 1661, Nicolas Fouquet gave a party. The evening, considered by most of the guests to be a stunning success, was to bring the host disgrace, imprisonment and a miserable death 18 years later.

Fouquet was Louis XIV's financial secretary. His father, François, had been one of Cardinal Richelieu's advisers on commercial and maritime matters, and Nicolas himself was one of Cardinal Mazarin's appointments. He found the State Treasury empty after years of catastrophic mismanagement. His task was to refill it. Louis had expensive tastes, and expensive wars to wage. Fouquet, in building up his own fortune, by means which to modern eyes would seem grossly corrupt but which were considered quite normal in the 17th century, was able to guarantee the king's debts.

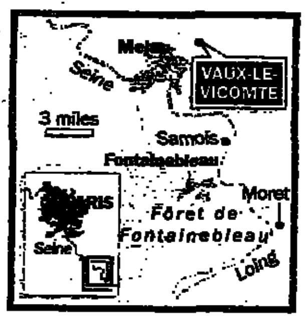
Fouquet had an implacable enemy, Colbert, Louis's chief minister, who lost no opportunity to blacken Fouquet's name. He convinced the king that all the country's financial ills could be laid at the financial secretary's door. If Fouquet were guilty, then the king's beloved Mazarin could be presumed innocent. Moreover, some normal repairs to Fouquet's property at Belle-Isle-en-Mer could be constructed as a preparation for a plot against the king. Perhaps most crucially, Fouquet's intentions towards Louis's mistress Louise de la Vallière were tantamount to treason.

Clearly, Fouquet must go. But he must suspect nothing. The king's wish to see the most recent improvements at Vaux-le-Vicomte, Fouquet's great house near Fontainebleau, was an easy ruse. The trap was set.

Vaux-le-Vicomte was the most beautiful château in France. Designed by Le Vau, decorated by Le Brun, and with gardens laid out by Le Nôtre, it far exceeded in style and impact anything owned by Louis himself. Fouquet's patronage of the arts — his protégés included La Fontaine, Poussin and Molière — could be tolerated. His extravagance and apparent wish to rival and even exceed Louis's grandeur could not. That evening, the king resolved to use the same three men who had been commissioned to create Vaux to help him create Marly and Versailles.

Three weeks later, Fouquet was arrested by an officer of the King's Musketeers by the name of d'Artagnan. A court was briskly convened, but in spite of Louis's known wish that the death penalty should be handed down, the judges recommended banishment, only to be overruled by a royal decree that Fouquet should be imprisoned for life in the fortress of Pignerol in the Alps. He died there in March 1680. Alexandre Dumas, besides turning d'Artagnan into one of the great heroes of romantic fiction, wove a story about a man in an iron mask, based loosely on Fouquet.

Louis appropriated the contents of Vaux-le-Vicomte, stripping it of paintings, tapestries and sculpture for the embellishment of the Louvre and Versailles. Fouquet's wife and sons were allowed to reclaim the château after an interval of 12 years, and it then passed into the hands of the Maréchal de Villars, and in 1764 was sold to the Duc de Choiseul-Praslin, Louis XV's foreign minister. It survived the French Revolution virtually undamaged but became almost derelict after the fifth duke murdered his wife and then committed suicide. The family was so devastated that it left. The house decayed and the gardens became a wilderness.



It was not until 1875 that the next crucial person in the history of Vaux-le-Vicomte appeared on the scene. Alfred Sommier owned one of the largest sugar refineries in France. He was also devoted to the arts. It was an ideal combination. Soon the house was not only restored but filled with furniture and decorations from the period of the original building (the Praslins had left two tables, seven paintings, six statues and a bookcase). The gardens had to wait a further 50 years before they were fully restored.

Go to Vaux-le-Vicomte in autumn, when the leaves on the chestnut trees have turned to brown and gold, and walk to the farthest end of the gardens. There, by the statue of Hercules, a copy of the famous Farnese original, turn towards the house and you will see one of the most perfect vistas in the whole of France: in the distance, the château itself, moated but decorative rather than exclusive, a setting for one of La Fontaine's fables or a comedy by Molière. It is the *grand siècle* in miniature.

CHRISTOPER SINCLAIR STEVENSON

● *Vaux-le-Vicomte is 6km from Melun in the Ile de France, 16km from Fontainebleau (the two great houses can be visited in one day with time for a picnic in the Forest of Fontainebleau), and 49km from Paris.*

Life of leisure amid the pleasures of Provence

High above the seaside fray of Cannes, in the rolling green hills of Provence, Club Med has built one of its landlocked, but eminently relaxing, outposts.

Set in sprawling grounds, which appear far larger than the postage-stamp-sized village from which it takes its name, Club Med Opio offers an enticing combination of holiday opportunities.

In classic Club Med style, visitors can immerse themselves in a wide range of activities without leaving the grounds, including golf, tennis, swimming, cycling and gym workouts. There is even a small library in one of the bars — with plenty of books in English — for those who just want a little poolside reading.

As with most Club Meds, the activities laid on for children were extensive. In a circus training area, children could learn to walk a tightrope and swing on the trapeze.

And every night, the multitalented Club Med "GOs" (*gentils organisateurs* — the equivalent of Butlins' Redcoats, but with a suntan) who had been giving tennis and other sporting lessons and pouring cocktails earlier in the day, appeared on stage in impressive song and dance numbers. Who said the music hall era was dead?

As for the food, every meal was a banquet, with dinners including special — but not obligatory — themed nights, featuring the cuisine of Mexico, Greece, America and other foreign lands.

However, despite the wealth of activities and good eating on site, we could not resist taking advantage of the gorgeous South of France locale and decided to divide our time between club activities and the world outside the gate. We were two months away from having our first child and did not know when we would next have the chance to meander through the French countryside without carting around half of Mothercare.

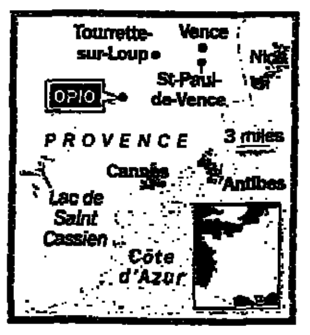
We decided to hire a car and were able to arrange it through Club Med, which has a Europcar office. Unfortunately, our first rental Renault kept slipping out of gear, but there was no problem replacing it.

Once outside the gates, we got a taste of the true Provence. Narrow, winding roads took us through turreted, medieval hillside villages. The most spectacular, but also the most touristy, was Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a fortified village with 16th-century ramparts.

Just as pretty, but less crowded, was Tourrette-sur-Loup, a village centered on a château built in 1437, which features more than two dozen artisans' workshops where painters, sculptors, jewellers and potters sell their wares.

WORLD PICTURES

Harvesting the grapes for a taste of the true Provence



We had an excellent two-course lunch for less than Fr200 (£20) at one of the local bistros, Le Vieux Cellier, where a friendly little black dog kept us entertained.

On another excursion, we discovered a lake which had not been mentioned in any of the guidebooks in the Club Med shop. The Lac de Saint Cassien, which has hardly been commercialised, offers sailing, sunning and swimming and not much else. After circling the lake and its wooded surroundings, we found our own private beach.

Back at Club Med, in the evenings we were encouraged to share a dining table with people we did not know and join the camaraderie that Club Med fosters among its guests.

It is worth noting that during the low season the majority of Club Med Opio's guests are business people on combination conference-holiday packages, working in the mornings and enjoying the amenities the rest of the time.

The rooms at Club Med Opio were not designed to be luxurious. But they are clean and comfortable, with a television and — in our case — a view of a wooded area.

The GOs are relentlessly cheerful and helpful. Many are working at Club Med in the hope of having their theatrical talent discovered by a holidaying showbiz mogul.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

FACT FILE

- Club Med (0171-225 1066) prices start at £964 per adult per week. A child aged two to five costs £371; aged six to 11, £528. The package includes flights, transfers, full board, most sports, evening entertainment and insurance.
- British Airways (0345 222111) flies daily to Nice from Heathrow, (flights from £161 excluding taxes).
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Companion Guide: The South of France*, by Archibald Lyall (Boydell and Brewer, £10.95).

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South East: Royal Tunbridge Wells turns into *Brigadoon*; Albury Park offers *Four Weddings and a Funeral*

CHRIS PARKER

Watched by bemused tourists, a party of fully-costumed players try their hand at a game of cards in the Pantiles at Tunbridge Wells as part of the Georgian festivities

A stroll back to Georgian times

> 'Beau Nash keeps the lower orders in check, including Black Moll, the lusty fortune-teller, and her fiddler companion Crook-finger'd Jack'

Do not be surprised if you see Beau Nash strolling the Pantiles at Royal Tunbridge Wells this weekend. He will be presiding as the town's Master of Ceremonies, as though it were 1747, in all his Georgian glory — curly powder-puff wig, sawbuckle shoes, breaches, silk embroidery and silver-tipped cane. Around him will be an A-Z of Georgian characters going about their daily life in this once fashionable health spa.

Just like *Brigadoon*, but every year, *instead of once in a* hundred years, Tunbridge Wells comes alive as it was two-and-a-half centuries ago — until Sunday evening.

The pale-skinned beauty the Countess of Norfolk (a retired mistress of George II) receives callers in her chamber during an open ladies' levee — all whalebone corsets, double-span dress hoops and lace petticoats. Meanwhile, the gentrified figure of Mrs Amelia Strode promenades and takes tea and cinnamon bis*cuits for her public breakfast* on the Upper Walks.

Beau Nash also keeps the lower orders in check, including the drink-prone carriers of the sedan chair, Black Moll, the lusty fortune-teller, and her fiddler companion Crook-finger'd Jack. Beau Nash can also be found instructing the town musicians on the bandstand and exhorting the gentlemen and men of letters, such as the Earl of Chesterfield and Horace Walpole, to indulge in port and pipes in *the Tiles Chop House.*

In the fishmarket, boisterous servants dance to fiddles while the "Quality" perform more civilised steps and dances on the Upper Walks.

The public is encouraged to join in and gossip with the players, but they will find the actors never speak out of character — no matter how provocative the banter.

The Georgian festivities, known as "Pleasures on the Pantiles" and which started last Wednesday, is all-day street theatre, drawing crowds from home and abroad. "About 5,000 tourists a day *visited the town last year* compared with fewer than 1,000 before the festival's advent in 1992," says Diane Talbot, of the council's tourism office.

Tunbridge Wells is not as grand as its rival Bath Spa, *but is similar in scale to Chelt*enham Spa. "We sell ourselves on the atmosphere of the old quarter and the history and etiquette that went with its heyday," Ms Talbot says.

The town's charm quarter is the Pantiles. The colonnaded promenade was first laid in 1638 and runs at an angle to the Chalybeate Spring, discovered by Lord North in 1606. It is elegant in the extreme and named after its original square tile paving, later replaced with Purbeck flagstone.

The hypochondriac Lord North declared miracle properties for the ochre-tinged, iron-tasting spring water and claimed that taking the waters could cure "damp hearts" and "lingering consumptive disorders". Others said it had gynaecological powers. The spa became a haven for eminent invalids after Queen Henrietta Maria convalesced there in 1630 following the birth of her baby (later Charles II).

Rest shelters were first built beside the bubbling spring enclosed by Lord Muskerry in 1664. Coffee houses, with writing materials and news sheets, soon followed. Gaming rooms and lodging houses added sheen to the high-class resort.

During its heyday, from 1735-1761, the Upper and Lower Walks in the Pantiles bustled with dukes and duchesses, earls and barons, authors, statesmen and cads. The Wells was the watering place for the serious-minded but was also famous for its informality.

Besides the festivities, a walk-through exhibition — "A Day at the Wells" — at the Corn Exchange on the Lower Walks (on which the plebs were allowed to promenade) is another way into Georgian Tunbridge Wells. Headphones issuing a guided commentary are worn throughout a tour of set-piece scenes with life-size models in Georgian garb (some characters based on Hogarth engravings).

In the Coffee House, the soundscape is of tavern talk, pots banging and fiery ranges. At the Spa Spring Well a local "dipper" dispenses water to aristocratic ladies. In the Assembly Rooms shysters linger by the spinning wheels playing E&O — a form of roulette later outlawed.

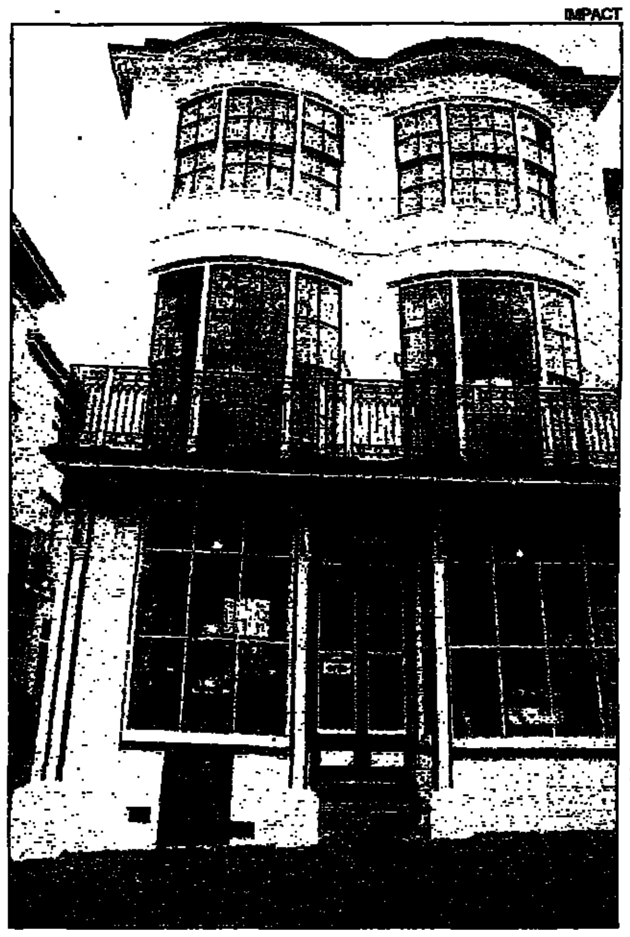
After a taste of bygone days you can return to the present with a variety short trips out of town. The countryside north-east towards Paddock Wood is Garden of England territory. Finchcocks museum is 20 minutes away, past dozens of oast houses and hop gardens.

The redbrick Georgian Baroque-style manor house and working museum has one of the country's largest collections of historic instruments, housing 80 early pianos, chamber organs, harpsichords, virginals, spinets and clavichords. Most are in working order and awed visitors may touch and tinkle.

ALEX WIJERATNE

● *Georgian Festivities July 30-Aug 3 (01892 515675). A Day at the Wells (01892 546545). Finchcocks, Goudhurst (01580 211702).*

IMPACT



One of the spa town's typical old frontages with balcony

TUNBRIDGE FESTIVITIES FACT FILE

- **Three hotels have special B&B rates during the festivities. The Jarvis Pembury Hotel, 8 Tonbridge Road, Pembury (01892 823567) is down from £99 to £49 per person a night. The Royal Wells Inn, Mount Ephraim, Royal Tunbridge Wells (01892 511188) costs £32.50 pp, or £45 *with dinner. The Wellington Hotel, 84 Mount Ephraim (01892 542911),* charge £50 for a double room.**
- **"A Twilight Adventure Tour of Georgian Royal Tunbridge Wells" leaves the Pantiles at 7pm this evening. Tickets at £7.50 from the Tourist Information Centre (01892 515675).**
- **Binns Corner House, 70/72 The Pantiles (01892 527690) has all-day Georgian fayre for £5.25.**
- **"A Day at the Wells" costs £4.50, children £3.50, family tickets £12. *Information on 01892 546545.***
- **Finchcocks museum, Goudhurst, Kent (01580 211702), open Wed and Thurs throughout Aug, and Sun and Bank Hols until Sept 28, 2-6pm. £5.20, children £3.80, family tickets £12.50.**

The house that set Hugh Grant on the road to film stardom

There was something familiar about the place. It was as if I had been to Albury Park before, and yet I knew I had not. The sense of *déjà vu* became even stronger as I wandered around the grounds and came upon a pretty little Saxon church.

It was as if I was expecting to see some familiar face walking up the overgrown path and past the carved tombstones and stone crosses. It was such a picturesque setting that it should have been in a movie. It would be *just perfect* for a *country* wedding, or even a funeral.

That, of course, was why it appealed to the makers of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, starring Hugh Grant. It was the setting for the wedding of Carrie and Hamish, supposedly a baronial estate in Scotland but in fact a stately home in Surrey.

As well as the church, a wing of the house became the Scottish castle, backdrop of the torchlight procession.

Albury Park is a picture-book historic home which takes paying guests, and I was lucky enough to have a taste of gracious living in one of two apartments in the rambling house.

There are no red-velvet ropes separating guests from the old leather sofas, the curtain-length royal portraits, the silk-covered Regency chairs and the wooden sculpted overmantels, unlike many other stately mansions which you visit for a day.

"It is not like the National Trust," says Lalage Glaister, *who, with her husband Paul,* are the live-in administrators of the Grade II listed manor house near Shere. "There is no roping off. You can touch things here. The place is lived in and loved. Guests have complete run of the house."

They can waltz at will through the yellow Regency drawing room, shuffle down the stairway designed by Sir John Soane, and browse through old biographies in the 40ft-high library.

Living there is a privilege, the Glaisters say. "The financial side is subordinate. It's a great chance to experience life in one of these grand old houses."

Grand it is. Parts of the house date back to 1042. Previous landlords included the 14th Earl of Arundel, the 1st Earl of Nottingham and the 6th Duke of Norfolk. Much of the house was redesigned by A.W.N. Pugin. He left it more Tudor than Gothic, with gables and battlements, and put up 63 ornate chimneys.

The house was bought by a member of the Duke of Northumberland's family towards the end of the 19th century. In 1969 it was bought by the Country Houses Association, which converted it into 45 apartments, now the homes of retired generals, group-captains, eminent physicians, a titled lady or two and other distinguished personages.

"This is their house — they are regarded as Albury's co-proprietors — and so it's more homely than a hotel," says Mrs Glaister "You can relax more and be completely private. It is ideal as a base and for bed and breakfast, but you don't feel obliged to leave the place during the day as one does in a hotel."

There is no room service or hotel bar and lounge, but there is, on arrival, a bottle of wine in the guest apartments, which are fresh, plush and clean.

It is the grounds that give Albury its truly lordly feel. In 1822 the politician and essayist William Cobbett described the gardens at Albury Park as being "without exception the prettiest in England".

The north-facing house stands on a terrace overlooking a shallow valley split by the slow-moving River Tillingbourne. On the far side, are a pair of parralel lawned terraces — a quarter of a mile long — laid in the 1660s by John Evelyn, the diarist and horticulturalist.

House guests can roam the ancient lines of yews. The layout is considered an early masterpiece of English garden design: the upper terrace has an Italian-inspired semi-circular bathing pool and bath-house to explore.

It's a lifestyle that is very easy to get used to.

PHILIP LERWILL

● *Albury Park, Guildford, Surrey GU5 9BB (01483 202964): double room with breakfast £55 a night, single £35.*

● *Albury is owned by the Country Houses Association (01869 812800), which offers short breaks at its nine historic homes in the South East, from Aynhoe Park in Banbury, Oxfordshire, to Gosfield Hall at Halstead, Essex. Guests can stay from two to 14 nights but must be CHA members (£1 to join, plus £10 annual subscription).*

PICTORIAL PRESS

Four Weddings and a Funeral was shot at Albury Park

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

SOOJEE
(a) A flour obtained by grinding Indian wheat. Also a nutritious food prepared from this. From the Hindi. Ruth Prawer Jhahvala, *To Whom She Will*, 1955: "O she is such a clever girl; kheer she makes, and soojee-halwa."

CHATOYANT
(a) Having a changeable, undulating or floating lustre, like that of a cat's eye in the dark. A chatoyant stone, as the cat's eye, the surface and interior of which, when cut and polished, exhibits a floating lustre. Tennent, *Ceylon*, 1859: "The moonstone, a variety of pearly adularia presenting chatoyant rays when simply polished."

LYCOPODIUM
(b) The fine powder formed by the ripe spores of the species Lycopodium. Also known as vegetable brimstone from its flammability. It is used in surgery as an absorbent; also in theatreland for the production of stage lightning. It is also used in experimental physics as a tracer of the movement or vibrations of a gas produced by sound. "The vibrations of the *paper are easily demonstrated by movements* of particles of fine sand or Lycopodium strewed upon it."

SIGILLATE
(c) To seal up. The Latin for a seal is *sigilla*. "To fasten and as it were to sigillate and affix to us the unmercifulness of men."

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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Will we pay for safer aircraft?

All the rational arguments, all the logic, all the statistics cannot convince a significant minority of aircraft passengers that flying is the safest form of travel. In fact, in the first six months of this year 1,614 people died on the roads of Great Britain. In the same period 231 people died worldwide in air accidents.

Aviation is strictly regulated, especially in Britain, and aeroplanes are built to high standards with three and sometimes four back-ups for every piece of equipment.

Even so, flying could be made safer. Improvements have often been introduced in some countries but not in others. The Foreign Office still advises visitors to China to beware of some of its airlines.

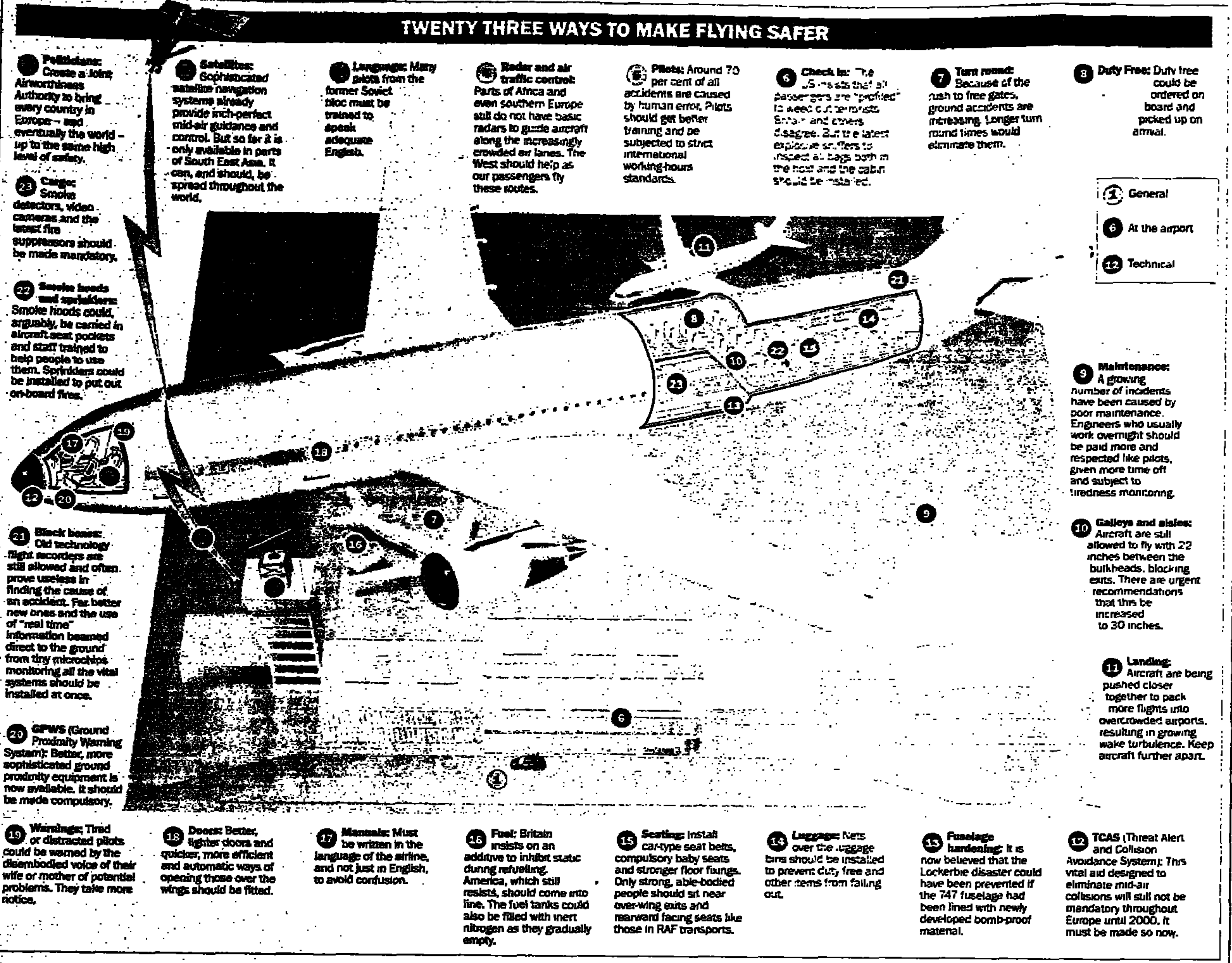
Many of the potential safety improvements do, however, have flaws. To fit smoke hoods, for example, could hold up an evacuation. And to have rear-facing seats would cause problems on take off. Modern jets climb so steeply that instead of being pressed back into a seat, passengers would be left dangling from seat belts.

And improvements costs money. Would we happily pay higher fares or are most of us concerned about getting the cheapest deal?

It is possible to make flying safer, as the graphic shows. The question is: when the risk is so small is it worth it?

HARVEY ELLIOTT

TWENTY THREE WAYS TO MAKE FLYING SAFER



① **Politicians:** Create a Joint Airworthiness Authority to bring every country in Europe – and eventually the world – up to the same high level of safety.

② **Satellites:** Sophisticated satellite navigation systems already provide inch-perfect mid-air guidance and control. But so far it is only available in parts of South East Asia. It can, and should, be spread throughout the world.

③ **Language:** Many pilots from the former Soviet bloc must be trained to speak adequate English.

④ **Radar and air traffic control:** Parts of Africa and even southern Europe still do not have basic radars to guide aircraft along the increasingly crowded air lanes. The West should help as our passengers fly these routes.

⑤ **Pilots:** Around 70 per cent of all accidents are caused by human error. Pilots should get better training and be subjected to strict international working-hours standards.

⑥ **Check in:** The US insists that all passengers are "profiled" to weed out terrorists. Britain and others disagree. But the latest explosive sniffers to inspect all bags both in the hold and the cabin should be installed.

⑦ **Turn round:** Because of the rush to free gates, ground accidents are increasing. Longer turn round times would eliminate them.

⑧ **Duty Free:** Duty free could be ordered on board and picked up on arrival.

① General

⑥ At the airport

⑫ Technical

⑨ **Maintenance:** A growing number of incidents have been caused by poor maintenance. Engineers who usually work overnight should be paid more and respected like pilots, given more time off and subject to tiredness monitoring.

⑩ **Galleys and aisles:** Aircraft are still allowed to fly with 22 inches between the bulkheads, blocking exits. There are urgent recommendations that this be increased to 30 inches.

⑪ **Landing:** Aircraft are being pushed closer together to pack more flights into overcrowded airports, resulting in growing wake turbulence. Keep aircraft further apart.

⑫ **TCAS** (Threat Alert and Collision Avoidance System): This vital aid designed to eliminate mid-air collisions will still not be mandatory throughout Europe until 2000. It must be made so now.

⑬ **Fuselage hardening:** It is now believed that the Lockerbie disaster could have been prevented if the 747 fuselage had been lined with newly developed bomb-proof material.

⑭ **Luggage:** Nets over the luggage bins should be installed to prevent duty free and other items from falling out.

⑮ **Seating:** Install car-type seat belts, compulsory baby seats and stronger floor fixings. Only strong, able-bodied people should sit near over-wing exits and rearward facing seats like those in RAF transports.

⑯ **Fuel:** Britain insists on an additive to inhibit static during refuelling. America, which still resists, should come into line. The fuel tanks could also be filled with inert nitrogen as they gradually empty.

⑰ **Manuals:** Must be written in the language of the airline, and not just in English, to avoid confusion.

⑱ **Doors:** Better, lighter doors and quicker, more efficient and automatic ways of opening those over the wings should be fitted.

⑲ **Warnings:** Tired or distracted pilots could be warned by the disembodied voice of their wife or mother of potential problems. They take more notice.

⑳ **GPWS** (Ground Proximity Warning System): Better, more sophisticated ground proximity equipment is now available. It should be made compulsory.

㉑ **Black boxes:** Old technology flight recorders are still allowed and often prove useless in finding the cause of an accident. Far better new ones and the use of "real time" information beamed direct to the ground from tiny microchips monitoring all the vital systems should be installed at once.

㉒ **Smoke hoods and sprinklers:** Smoke hoods could, arguably, be carried in aircraft seat pockets and staff trained to help people to use them. Sprinklers could be installed to put out on-board fires.

㉓ **Cargo:** Smoke detectors, video cameras and the latest fire suppressors should be made mandatory.

French lesson in clever leisure

Which is the most popular museum in Paris after the Louvre? You'll not be alone if La Cité des Sciences fails to spring to mind. Although it attracts more than five million visitors a year, and is one of the largest science complexes in Europe, it is still comparatively unknown.

The complex, a converted abattoir at La Villette on the northeastern outskirts of Paris, falls both mentally and geographically outside the traditional tourist circuit of the Champs-Elysees and the Latin Quarter. In fact, La Cité is only 20 minutes from the centre of Paris by Métro. A prettier and more and leisurely route is by canal from the Seine.

In 136 acres of parkland, the complex is vast and includes permanent and temporary science exhibitions, a planetarium, an aquarium, a 3-D cinema and a submarine.

The permanent science exhibitions in the Explora section are organised around themes such as energy, mathematics, human behaviour and the environment. There are lots of hands-on exhibits such as the eye-follower, which reveals the complexity of eye movements, or the water-powered rocket which demonstrates the difficulty of launching space craft.

When I was there, however, Explora was curiously empty. Perhaps, like me, visitors were discouraged by the confusing layout of the exhibitions and gravitated towards the star attractions, La Géode and La Cité des Enfants.

La Géode, an Omninmax cinema with a hemispherical 1,000sq metre screen, is to La Cité what the *Mona Lisa* is to the Louvre and is extremely popular. With your field of vision completely filled by images, the effect of travelling to the depths of the ocean or to the edge of space is realistic.

The other highlight of the complex is the well organised and brightly coloured Cité des Enfants. About 4,000 children visit it each day. Here, youngsters who have been dragged round the traditional sights of Paris are in charge. They can crawl under an anthill or inside a kangeroo's pouch, visit the butterfly farm or build a house.

The idea here, as elsewhere in the complex, is "clever leisure". La Cité des Sciences is keen to promote the idea that science is both fun and educational.

LEYLA LYNTON

● *The author was a guest of Paris Travel Service (01992 456000) and La Cité des Sciences et de L'Industrie (00 33 1 40 05 12 12).*

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Venetian festival

THE historical regatta of Venice, one of the city's most picturesque and good-humoured festivals, takes place on September 7. Barges and gondolas with rowers in traditional costumes will sweep down the Grand Canal recreating the Golden Age when La Serenissima and its doges ruled the waves. Hotly contested gondola races will follow.

Accommodation can be hard to find, but short-break specialist Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333) has three nights with B&B accommodation, flights and water taxi transfers for £385.

■ **FROM August 16 to November 9, more than a hundred works by James Whistler will be on show at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Two-night breaks with Amsterdam Travel Service (01992 456056) are based at the Hotel Fontana, a few minutes' walk from the museum. The cost is from £97, which includes B&B accommodation and ferry crossings. Entry to the museum costs £4 per person.**

Ancient land

ARMENIA, the tiniest of the former Soviet republics — slightly smaller than Belgium — is opening its doors to tourism and using Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) as its Travel and Tourist Centre.

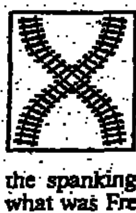
The mountainous country — only 10 per cent of it lies below 1,000 metres — is one of the world's oldest nations. Mount Ararat, its most famous symbol where Noah's Ark was said to have settled after the flood, is now in Turkey but is clearly visible from Yerevan, Armenia's capital.

In AD 301 the country officially adopted Christianity as its religion. A ten-day tour organised by Sunvil for September includes a visit to Echmiadzin, Armenia's ancient capital and seat of the Supreme Patriarch, and a trip to the 4th to 13th-century cave monasteries at Geghart. Also on the itinerary are Lake Sevan, one of the world's largest mountain lakes set 2,000 metres above sea level, and a Roman temple at Garni.

The tour costs £964 which includes flights via Amsterdam, ten nights' B&B at the unromantically named Armenia 2 Hotel (three-star), and excursions. A visa costing £35 is also necessary.

POLAND
10 Day Holiday with Half Board £129
To Zakopane in the Beautiful Tatra Mountains
New Millennium Holidays
Brochure: 0121 705 4431

Crossed lines



WOULD-BE rail travellers are complaining about the impossibility of telephoning Rail Europe, the spanking-new version of what was French Railways in Piccadilly, London.

I tried the "Info Line" (0990-300 003) which is emblazoned all over the colourful brochure. But it merely thanked me for calling and told me all the operators were busy, asked me to call back and added that lines were open 8am-10pm Monday and Tuesday, 8am-8pm Wednesday to Friday and 9am-4pm on Saturday. The Motorail Line (0171-203 7000) merely gave the engaged signal. Total number of calls over two days: 19 on each line.

"We're victims of our own success," said a Rail Europe spokesman. "We've had 30 per cent more bookings than last year, double what we expected. We've put in a new system and doubled the staff to 35." His advice? Mondays and Tuesdays are saturated; try ringing later in the week or early in the evening. "But you can always try the fax: 0171-633 9900," he added.

I did and I finally got through — on the fifth call.

■ **KUONI (01306 740500) is introducing charter flights to Agra from October for its winter holidays to northern India. The long-haul specialist firm says Agra is less of a culture shock than Delhi for first-timers to India. An even bigger bonus, the company admits, could be in avoiding the hassles of Delhi airport. On my last visit it took more than 30 officials to process me through. A week's B&B at Agra costs £495-£599; a week at Jaipur £695-£751.**

Single ideas

CLIMBING a mountain in Troodos, bouncing across Iceland in a Jeep, trekking in Bolivia or golfing in Marrakesh are far better ice-breakers than lying on a beach and trying to make conversation, says singles specialist Solo Holidays (0181-951 2800).

To cater for an increasing demand, Solo has packed its winter programme with action specials, ranging from a three-night cycling break in Rutland costing £265 B&B to a two-week Nepalese trek for £1,675. Holidaymakers are divided into the over-thirties and the over-fifties, and although the company attempts to balance the sexes, there are usually more women than men. On the vexed question of single supplements, Solo admits to charging these on cruises and in the United States, but "not on most other holidays".

Refund offer

LAST year Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, decided to cut down the purple prose in its brochures and (within reason) tell it like it is, warts and all. It has now gone a considerable step further and promises an early flight home and a full refund to those clients who find their holiday does not live up to the brochure description.

They must report the problem to the Thomson representative within one day of their arrival, giving the company 24 hours to find a solution. If the problem cannot be resolved and the clients are still dissatisfied, Thomson will offer to fly them home and reimburse the cost of the holiday.

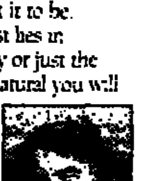
MARK CATOR

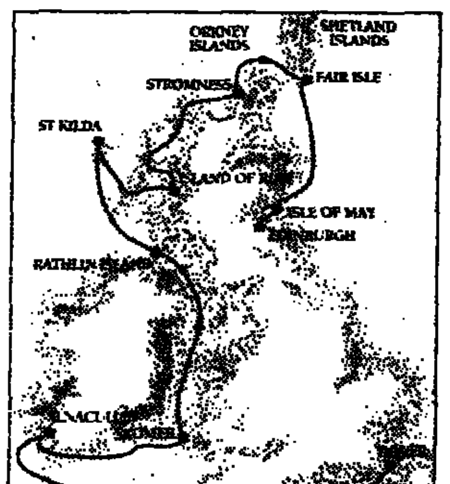
Regatta in Venice, when barges and gondolas sweep down the Grand Canal with rowers in historical costumes

Join Tony Soper for an
ISLAND ODYSSEY
EXPLORING THE BRITISH ISLES
ABOARD THE MV CLIPPER ADVENTURER
6-18 June 1998

There is so much beauty and interest to be found in our own islands but all too often they are forsaken for a package arrangement to some far-off destination. Some of our most beautiful places are also the most inaccessible, but with the aid of the expedition cruise ship *MV Clipper Adventurer* we will venture to the remotest isles which pepper the British and Irish coastlines.

Our Island Odyssey can be as relaxing or as energetic as you want it to be. Whether your main interest lies in ornithology, botany, history or just the appreciation of all things natural you will find a rewarding experience. Tony Soper and his team will be on hand to answer you questions and provide informative after-dinner talks and briefings.





THE MV CLIPPER ADVENTURER

The 122 passenger vessel *Clipper Adventurer* is undergoing a total refit (56 million) in a Scandinavian yard this summer and when completed will be one of the finest expedition cruise vessels in the world. All her 63 cabins will have outside views, two lower beds, private shower and toilet and individual temperature controls.

Equipped with stabilisers this ocean going vessel also has the benefit of an ice-strengthened hull, making her suitable for cruising in the polar regions. Like all good expedition ships she has her fleet of inflatable Zodiac craft which are ideal for forays ashore even in the remotest of places. There is also an 'open bridge' policy for passengers to visit, see the charts and meet the officers.

Good continental and American food is served in the delightful single-sitting dining room by Clipper's American staff. There are two lounges and a library/card room. An unusual feature is a spacious covered promenade which is ideal for relaxing and viewing and in addition there is an open area on the Boat Deck and an observation platform just below the bridge which is ideal for wildlife viewing.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Dover. Embark *Clipper Adventurer* in the afternoon and sail.
Day 2 Cruise through the Channel. Anchor at **Les Sept-Isles** and explore the oldest bird sanctuary in France.
Day 3 Isles of Scilly. Spend the day on Tresco visiting the sub-tropical Abbey Gardens and superb white-sand beaches.
Day 4 Using our zodiacs visit **Ilnacullin Island**, famous for its exquisite gardens. We expect to find harbour seals on the islets.
Day 5 In the early morning sail close to **Grassholm**, home of some 30,000 pairs of gannets. Visit **Skomer**, home to great numbers of manx shearwaters, kittiwakes and puffins.
Day 6 Rathlin Island. Drive to the seabird cliffs of the Kebble reserve; towering stacks with teeming seabird ledges, astonishing numbers of auks, fulmars, shags and gulls. Seals can be found near the harbour.
Day 7 St Kilda. Home of our greatest concentrations of gannets and fulmars. Weather permitting, we shall land on **Hirta** to see the abandoned village and climb to the seabird cliffs of Conachair. Sail past the Stac-an-Armin and Stac Lee.
Day 8 Isle of Rum. Anchoring in Loch Scresort, we shall be surrounded by splendid mountain scenery. This has recently been the base for the introduction of the sea eagle. Visit Kinloch Castle.
Day 9 Cruise the Minch, watching for dolphins and minke whales. Land on the beaches of **Handa** with its fine bird cliffs.
Day 10 Cruise past the Old Man of Hoy and berth in the centre of **Stromness**. Visit the bird-rich interior and see the Maes Howe archaeological site. Mainland is a birder's paradise with healthy populations of bonxies and loons. Sailing by way of Scapa Flow, pass close to the seabird cliffs of Copinsay.
Day 11 Fair Isle. The most isolated settlement in the British Isles. Visit the bird observatory (there is always the chance of a fall of migrants, anything from a red-spotted bluethroat to a red-footed falcon)
Day 12 Isle of May. This superb bird island is the ideal place to come face to face with a thousand puffins and also has a thriving population of eiders and terns. Fulmars, kittiwakes and shags are here in large numbers. Search for seals and in the afternoon circumnavigate the Bass Rock, historic home of Britain's oldest gannetry
Day 13 Edinburgh. Morning disembarkation.

PRICES PER PERSON
Prices from £2795 per person in a category 1 cabin to £3995 per person in a suite.
Single cabins from £3795.
Price includes: 12 nights aboard the *Clipper Adventurer* on full board, shore excursions, entrance fees and donations, guest speakers, expedition leader and staff.
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Itinerary
Day 1 Depart London Gatwick in the evening and fly with Monarch Airlines Boeing 757 through the night via Luxor and Kilimanjaro to Grand Comore. Day 2 Arrive in Grand Comore and transfer to Le Galawa Beach Hotel for a stay of seven nights. Days 3 to 8 During the week you may relax, enjoy the many facilities of the hotel or explore according to your own wishes. Day 9 Depart with Monarch Airlines on the return flight via Luxor to Gatwick arriving early next morning.

7 nights half board from £695.00

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COTE D'AZUR Nice. Sumt 1 Bed appt, lge terr over Med. gge. 1 mile Sea. Tel: 0181 5604954

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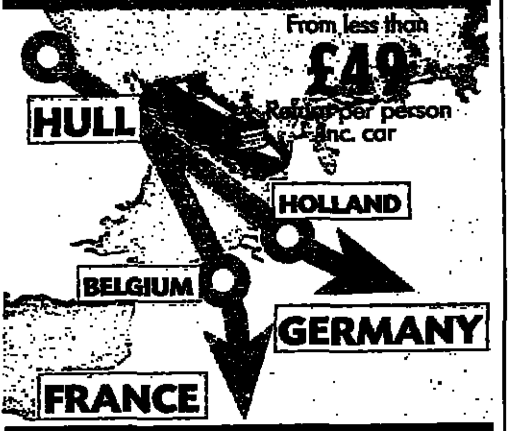

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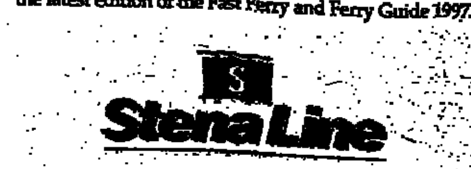

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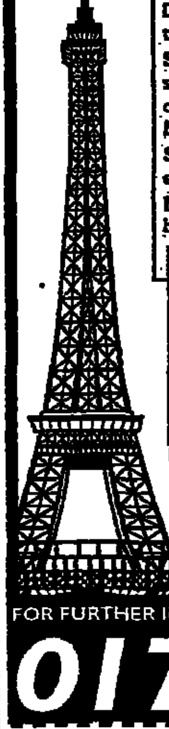

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

IN 1947 the Argentine newspaper *El Mundo Argentino* published a series of articles with the title, "I am the future world champion". The author was the Polish grandmaster Miguel Najdorf, who had emigrated to Argentina just before the second world war. In his articles Najdorf explained his claims to the world chess throne recently vacated by the death of the champion, Alexander Alekhine. Najdorf, born in 1910, had just won against the leading Russian contender, Mikhail Botvinnik, at the 1946 Groningen tournament. However, this win, which I give this week with notes, may have done little to further Najdorf's ambitions. In 1948 FIDE, the World Chess Federation charged with organising the tournament to resolve the interregnum occasioned by Alekhine's death, was sympathetic to the USSR chess federation. A match tournament was set up involving six of the best grandmasters: Botvinnik, Smyslov, Reshevsky, Keres, Euwe and Fine. When Fine dropped out there was a strong case for Najdorf to take his place. That he was not invited to do so has been blamed on Botvinnik's intervention. I doubt this was the case but I do believe the Soviet Chess Federation would not have been enthusiastic about a man who had obliterated their foremost contender.

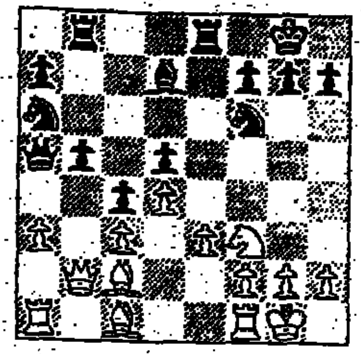
Botvinnik won the world title in 1948 while Najdorf maintained a leading position through the 1950s, but never played a World Championship match. He died last month and this week's game completes *The Times*'s tribute to him. For the record, his obituary appeared in *The Times* on July 12.

White: Miguel Najdorf. Black: Mikhail Botvinnik
Groningen 1946
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 e6 2 c4 Nf6
3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 d5
5 cxd5 exd5 6 a3 Bxc3+
7 bxc3 c5 8 Nf3 Qa5
9 Nd2 Bd7 10 Nb3 Qa4
11 Qb2 Na6 12 e3 c4

Black enjoys a grip on the queen's flank while White has long-term prospects in the centre and with his bishop pair.

13 Nd2 0-0 14 Be2 b5
15 Bd1 Qa5 16 Bc2 Rfe8
17 0-0 Rab8 18 Nf3



Botvinnik must have believed he was making all the running, but Najdorf counterattacks.

18 ... Qc7 19 Ne5 Be6
20 f3 Nc5 21 Bd2 Na4

Sending his knight on a forlorn mission. It was time to defend with 21 ... Ncd7 22 Nxd7 Bxd7 23 Rae1 Bc6 24 Qb1 Qb7, with the intention of dominating the e4-square.

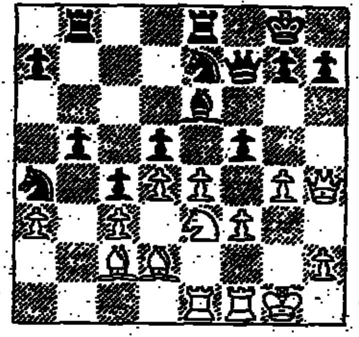
22 Qb1 Rb6 23 Qe1 Nd7
24 Qh4 Nf8 25 e4

In the higher strategic sense this advance ensures White's victory.

25 ... f6 26 Ng4 Ng6
27 Qh5 Qf7 28 Rae1 Rbb8
29 Ne3 Ne7

If instead 29 ... Nf4 30 Qxf7+ followed by 31 Nxc4.

30 Qh4 f5 31 g4



The fastest way to destroy Black's stronghold. If now 31 ... g6 32 exf5 gxf5 33 gxf5 Nxf5 34 Bxf5 Bxf5 35 Qg5+ Bg6 36 Nxd5 and White wins.

31 ... f4 32 exd5

By opening up an attack against h7 White wins material.

32 ... Ng6 33 dxe6 Rxe6
34 Bxg6 hxg6 35 Ng2 Rbe8
36 Rxe6 Rxe6 37 Nxf4 Rf6
38 Qg5 Nxc3 39 Bxc3 Rxf4
40 Kg2 Black resigns

WINNING MOVE

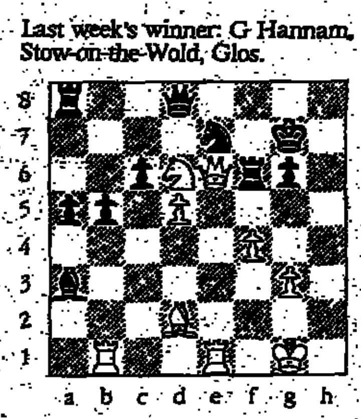
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Kavalek - Pietzsch, Sarajevo 1967. In this position, White could capture the knight on e7 with check. An adage in chess states that when you see a good move, you should look for a better one. This is what White did here. What did he find?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner. The answer will appear next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Qg2+

Last week's winner: G Hannam, Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos.



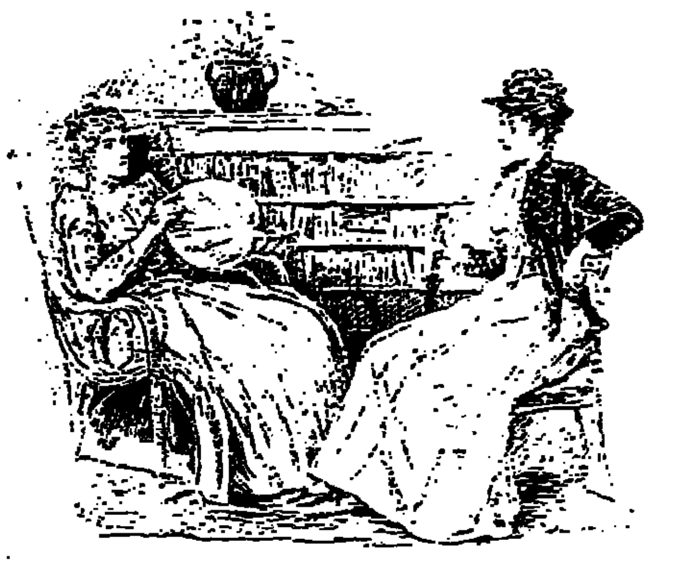
PUNCHLINE

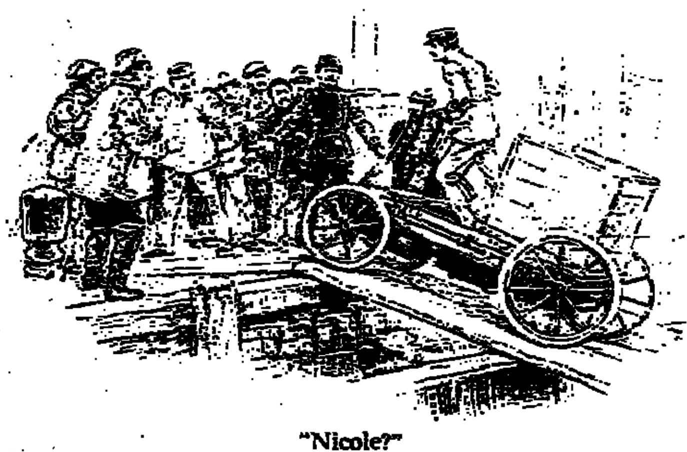
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 63, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 7.





"Nicole?"
"Not 'ere mate. She shot off with a big docker in a Ford Anglia"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by W.Normington of Leeds

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SOOJEE
a. Wheat flour
b. A rubber mop
c. A loved one

CHATOYANT
a. Like cats' eyes
b. Clear thinking
c. Conversational

LYCOPODIUM
a. A debating platform
b. Fine powder
c. A happy hunting ground

SIGILLATE
a. To flog
b. Overdue
c. To seal up

Answers on page 20

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE British team, winners of the General European Women's team championship, held a narrow lead over France going into the last two rounds of the 12-day tournament. In the penultimate round Michele Handley made this tricky 3NT:

Dealer South Game all IMPs

North:
♠10
♥975543
♦Q95
♣AQ5

West:
♠9853
♥102
♦J64
♣K742

East:
♠J742
♥AK8
♦K1087
♣86

South:
♠AKQ6
♥QJ
♦A32
♣J1093

S	W	N	E
Handley		Landy	
1 S	Pass	2 H	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Contract: 3NT by South
Lead: two of clubs

Four Hearts looks a better contract on the North-South cards, and as the cards lie makes easily.

West led the two of clubs, which Handley ran round to her jack. She continued with the queen of hearts, won by East who played a second club. Handley won in dummy with the queen of clubs and played a heart towards the jack. Clearly East had to duck, else the heart suit was set up.

Incidentally, after the defence allow the declarer to win the second round of hearts, which defender holds the ace? It has to be East — if West had the ace along with the ten she played on the second round of the suit, she would have played the ace on declarer's jack.

Handley now needed six more tricks in this position:

North:
♠10
♥9765
♦Q95
♣A

West:
♠9853
♥-
♦J64
♣K7

East:
♠J742
♥A
♦K1087
♣-

South:
♠AKQ6
♥-
♦A32
♣109

It is not clear what the best line is at this point. It is certainly reasonable to play towards the queen of diamonds. But when players are in form they seem to make all the right guesses, an important part of winning championships.

Handley unerringly cashed three rounds of spades (East following with small cards), and crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs (in case the clubs were 3-3). East discarded a diamond on the third club, and now Handley exited with a heart. East won, cashed the jack of spades and then had to lead away from the king of diamonds up to dummy's queen to give Handley her ninth trick.

East could have defeated the contract by unblocking in spades, so that her partner could win the fourth round of the suit. But on the last day of the event, with her team (Hungary) languishing in the bottom half of the table, I dare say she wasn't giving it full day one concentration.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

AS ALICE COOPER so crisply put it, school's out for summer. With the vacation season upon us, now is the time for all pale-skinned computer gamesters to emerge, blinking, into the sunshine for some fresh air. It is also the perfect time to dust down the Game Boy for those who still need their daily fix away from home.

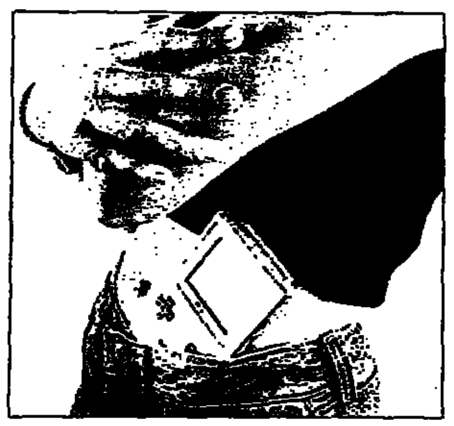
The Game Boy title likely to appeal to the widest audience has to be Nintendo's **Tetris**. The infectious classic boasts immense playability which is not at all diminished by being pared down for the handheld format, with 20 progressive skill levels.

This is the game in which you align shapes for a perfect fit. The game was devised by the Russian Alexey Pajitnov and gripped the world by the end of the Eighties, yet it did not make him a rich man. For ten years the Russian government swiped most of the game's earnings to spend on potatoes. Incidentally, Alexey is now working with Microsoft and has devised several new brainteasers for The Puzzle Collection, which will be released for PC in the autumn.

Of the current new selection of Game Boy titles, two stand out in particular. First there is **Micro Machines**, released by Ocean. This is the original title, which first appeared for the Sega Mega Drive, and it holds up well in the translation. You get a choice of eight vehicles to race over 28 tracks. You can compete against 11 characters of the game, each with individual skill levels, or race a human opponent on one Game Boy.

Then there is Nintendo's **Wave Race**, a light version of its Nintendo 64 title, Wave Race 64. You can chose from three personal water craft — the nimble 550cc, speedy 650cc and highly-powered 800cc National Class racer — and follow the action overhead. There are eight racing circuits to complete as well as eight slalom courses. You can save the quickest lap and course times or, with a four-player adaptor and more Game Boys, challenge up to three friends.

Ocean also opts for an aqua theme with **Waterworld**, an enjoyable platform game based on the movie which just soaked up losses. Here you swim, avoiding sharks and creatures of the deep, or race on water craft to complete the levels and "lead a people devoid of hope to the fabled Dryland".



Game Boy is a firm favourite for anyone away from home this summer

Ocean also released the Game Boy title I've been looking forward to for months but I have to admit to being disappointed. That great PC title **Worms** has been given the Game Boy treatment but, alas, its best feature is missing. Worms was the magnificent two-player game where teams of heavily armed, chirpy worms annihilate one another. The icing on the cake were the sound effects — catty helium-enhanced comments from the worms themselves. But in this version the worms never squirm as they are blown to pieces — all you hear are a few explosion effects.

Team 17, which developed the game, encountered problems with all the platform translations and since sound files can be bulky it was perhaps to be expected that the wry worm comments would be edited out.

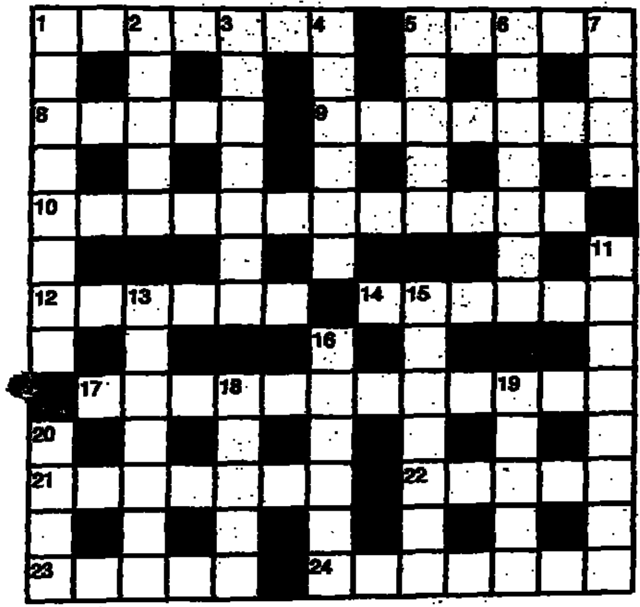
Still, the consolation is that by the end of the year we should see a new original Worms title for the PC. Of the other Game Boy platformers warranting a look, there's Ocean's **Super Hunchback**, starring the bell-hugging Quasimodo but nothing to do with Disney, and Nintendo's **Metroid II Return of Samus**, a sequel to the NES title Metroid. Here, as space hunter Samus Aran, you return to battle on a planet crawling with evil creatures lurking in cavernous corridors, ancient ruins and alien traps.

For sports fans, Nintendo's King of the Ring is a brutal elimination tournament. You can create your own wrestlers with customised strength and speed and you can play one on one or tag team bouts. Acclaim's NFL Quarterback Club 96 sees you fumbling and diving everywhere and, for aficionados, the game features the NFL's top quarterbacks, including Bledsoe, Elway, Favre, Hostetler, Marino and Cunningham.

We have three Game Boys to be won — the standard version and two runners-up Game Boy Pockets. The competition is open to readers up to the age of 16. To enter, list as many three or more letter words you can make using the letters in Game Boy. You should state at the top of the page how many words you have made and then list all of them clearly and *neatly*. Illegible entries will be disqualified.

Send your entry, with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty-Four, Computer Games & Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The competition closes on Wednesday August 6. Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1162

ACROSS
1 In relation to (3-1-3)
5 Energy: authority (5)
8 Interrogate; part of cooker (5)
9 Beau (7)
10 Inability to take wide view (6,6)
12 Crowd (6)
14 Weed addict (6)
17 Pole to beat down door (9,3)
21 Racing dog (7)
22 Fr. water-lily artist (5)
23 Tricky question (5)
24 One in charge of dog (7)

DOWN
1 Live undemanding life (8)
2 (Noble) descendant (5)
3 Feudal tenant (7)
4 Have no food (6)
5 Dancing shoes; engines (5)
6 Wizard; Peter —, composer (7)
7 Exquisite; unusual (4)
11 Impresario; one queening pawn (8)
13 (Payment in) notes (*colloq.*) (7)
15 One from Douglas (7)
16 Prop (under arm) (6)
18 Shrink towards end (5)
19 Of the kidneys (5)
20 Exchange (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1161

ACROSS: 1 Belittle 7 Green 8 Menagerie 9 Sic 10 Into 11 Regent 13 Flying 14 Saucer 17 Galley 18 Mart 20 Ian 22 Sacred cow 23 Taste 24 Flounder

DOWN: 1 Bambi 2 Lengthy 3 To/go 4 Larder 5 Beast 6 Knacker 7 General 12 Analyse 13 Frailty 15 Chanced 16 Pencil 17 Gnash 19 Tower 21 Beau

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

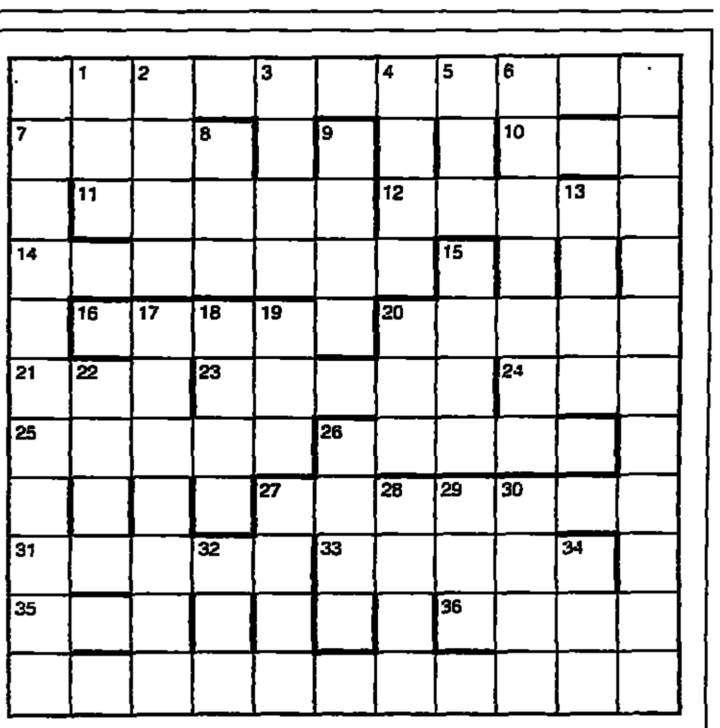
No 3421: Event by Anon

THE EVENT was not just a 31 of the previous year's, since it was held in 6. Although this was a little 32 for those of us from the 5 area, still a fair number 13, with virtually 10 inconvenience. Even so, there was many a leading 14 (and potential guest's) 22 missing from the gathering.

The perimeter squares reading clockwise from top left contain a well-known quotation, somewhat modified here. Its unchecked letters provide MY LIGHTS, WE LEFT TT! (That's doubtful, since many an 27d concoction was 8 and consumed!)

ACROSS
7 Preparing for bed? One's syrup in dash! (9)
11 Some desperado on Exmoor? (5)
12 One on short game once? Tilt! (9)
16 'Fiery Lord' from Cader? A gentlemen and an officer in turn (5)
20 Ruffian in gang, your reverse of stupid, wearing a badge (8)
21 Good Lord! I'm elected in July (6)
23 Hitler, say? Little fellow, possessed by evil strain (10)
24 Totals early tax or good returns (7)
25 Hard half-mountebank in periodical game (8)
26 'Hallo!' One's not left out in this! (5)
27 Economic theoretician, evangelical about spirit et al (11)
33 Elephant bird? (9)
35 Small coins used by doctors (not English) (6)
36 See through Milton's eyes line from plausible tale (4)

DOWN
1 Recorder's useless without a hole (3)
2 Mysterious reverse of card has shiny finish when turned over (8)
3 Indiscriminate consumer orders more vino (8)
4 Used all cooking pots (7)
5 Novelist showing new dimension in character (6)
9 Power maniac with change of heart has love-potions (8)
15 Bodies in protoplasm — customs impound that (7)
17 Ravel rode Haydn's bike (10)
18 Jazz run's silver notes (7)
19 Group of planes about evil game (7)
20 Calm manner surrounds Lord (6)
26 Assorted tales can make these (8)
27 One beak's merry due to alcohol? (9)
28 Spiny regions of cacti happen to be 'ollow pits (7)
29 Greedily desired and had time in capital of Laos first (6)
30 Select jury from list of particularly plain men (8)
32 Solo film hero in topless Scottish passage, not skilful (7)
34 Geographical feature of the Trias (3)



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A	C	T	T	I			O	R	I	N	G
N	E	E	S	C	E	N	L	A	N	T	E

Solution to No 3418: Splaash by Kea

The method of entry above the line mimics David Hockney's composite photographs. The drifting below the line relates to his swimming pool paintings. The title refers to his biography *A Bigger Splash*.

The winner is M.Galloway of Marlow, Bucks.

The five runners up are M.Cansfield of Otley, Yorkshire; D.Samuel of London; Howard Spencer of Bury, Lancashire; D.Williams of Lambersant, France; T.Allen of Bolton, Lancashire.

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THE TIMES
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AFFECTIONATE, - much-travelled *happy lady*, dark hair, 5'4", no ties, WLTM well-built wealthy man, 60'ish, n/s, energetic, to increase fun and enjoyment of life in West Country/London. *Photo/letter please* Bx 6553 ☎ ✍

AFFECTIONATE, loyal, witty, slim brunette. *Enjoys conversation*, cultural pursuits, travel, dining, seeks personable, charming n/s man 55+ *for friendship of whatever depth develops. London based Photo* appreciated Reply Box 6576 ☎ ✍

AFFECTIONATE prof lady WLTM business man with similar status 44-60 for friendship or possibly more. Photo appreciated. London/Home Counties. *Please* Reply to Box No 6563 ☎ ✍

AFRICAN princess 24, London based, 5'10" seeks "one in a million" gentleman, honest & lively. Box No 6647 ☎ ✍

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ARE you a good man going to waste? Are you intelligent, positive, considerate, fun to be with, appreciative of the finer things in life, successful, sporty, 50ish, prefer life a deux? Then you are just perfect! I am slim, blonde, attractive, elegant, caring, loyal, happy in a ballgown or jeans, have devoted too much time to business & would like to rejoin the human race - preferably with a soulmate. Please write with photo & tell me why it should be you. Northwest based. Box No 6641. ☎ ✍

ARE you a sincere, warm, fun loving, professional man, n/s, 42-52 who likes life in general? If we click this could be 'it'! I'm an attractive, slim, blonde, 5'6 prof woman (London) with lots of interests. Please send photo to Box No 6570 ☎ ✍

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BRUNETTE, blue eyes, 37 but still wanting family, WLTM n/s male 35-45. Must like tennis, polo and Pooh-Sticks. Photo appreciated. Cotswolds Bx 6600 ☎ ✍

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CHESHIRE fox, agile, free, just over 40. Looking for cute vixen Reply in no more than 9¾ words. Reply to Box No 6609 ☎ ✍

DARK haired, warm spontaneous, petite, prof lady, 40, seeks a professional, intelligent, honest, warm gentleman 40-50 Worcestershire. Telephone number and photograph greatly appreciated. Bx 6568 ☎ ✍

DAVE phoned Anne re Box (5803) 23rd July 6pm. Please call again message inaudible

FAIR LADY sensitive, caring, early 50s, creative. Christian beliefs. Deep feeling for natural world. SOH. Enjoy good company, walking, dancing, gardens, science fiction, 60s music. WLTM similar easy going n/s, happy, tall, successful man with big heart and mind for mutually up building, outstanding friendship aged 45-60. Photo please Box 6620 ✍

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STUNNING. prof, single white female, early 30's, very long dark hair, slim, 5'5". Excellent SOH, positive & happy attitude. Loves animals & quiet healthy lifestyle. Recently split from boyfriend. WLTM good looking, unpretentious, prof male 30-40 N/West Cheshire based. Photo swap essential Box 6637 ☎ ✍

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ADVENTUROUS lady over 50 sought by countryman, public school, Oxbridge who enjoys travel, skiing as well as the usual things. West Country to London. No need for photo but tel no. essential. Let's talk. Reply to Box No 6628 ☎ ✍

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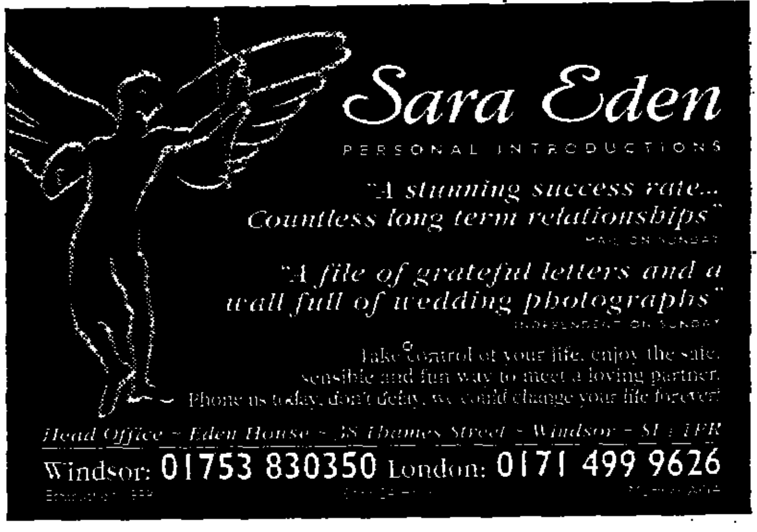

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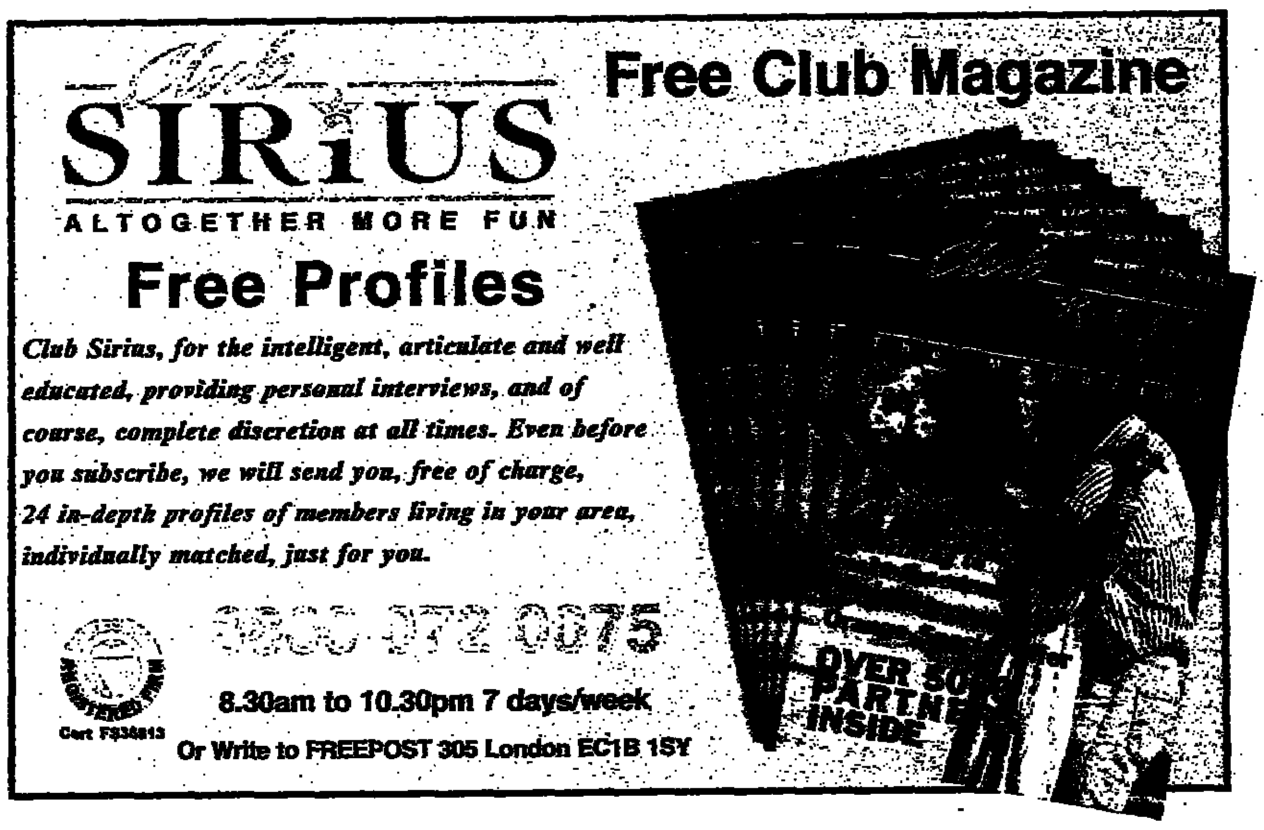

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GENTLEMEN

ANIMAL LOVING, 43, 6'2, young outlook, single, successful businessman. Living in rural North West with GSOH, fit and very active with good lifestyle. Enjoys travelling, motorsports, good food and wine WLTM tall, slim, stylish adventurous n/s lady. If you are under 40, share these interests your response with recent photo will ensure a reply. Cheshire. Box no 6640 ✍

A Sail in the sun. Competent gentleman owner seeks slim, n/s, fun lady for island cruise soon. Please write now with photo Hugh Apdo 182/07400 Alcudia, Mallorca, Spain.

ATTRACTIVE young looking 29 yr old, 5'7" Chinese prof (London based) ambitious, romantic & caring with GSOH. WLTM quiet, slim, attractive prof lady 20-30 who shares similar interests - travel, good food, countryside, sport for friendship & maybe more. Photo to Box No 6612 ☎ ✍

CARING, romantic, GSOH, 34, own business, loves skiing, travel, dining out. WLTM educated, attractive lady, 25-36 for wining, dining, and lasting relationship. Photo please. London. Reply to Box No 6601 ☎ ✍

CONFIDENT, optimistic, leisure industry, professional (36): Enjoys motor-cycling, relaxed conversation, good company. WLTM slim, intelligent woman for romance & TLC London/ Surrey. Photo please Box 6600 ☎ ✍

COUNTRY *Living?* 40s looks mid-30s, warm, caring, romantic. Lives old Somerset farmhouse. WLTM slim, pretty woman in 30s. Please Reply to Box No 6617 ☎ ✍

FORTIES slim fit & fun professional, loves country WLTM attractive thirties lady with view to long term. London/ Home Counties. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 6619 ☎ ✍

GENUINE, attractive, intelligent & solvent prof 43, own consultancy business but unpretentious, fit & sporty (tennis etc), likes travel. WLTM that special person, age immaterial but you must be an attractive person. London/ Home Counties. Photo to Box No 6623 ☎ ✍

GOOD Company wanted for business man, early 40's, single, white, N/S, 6'2". No baggage with open future. WLTM a lady any colour, creed or complexion so long as slim & gorgeous approx. mid 30's. Area: 35 mile radius of Bedford or thereabouts. Friendship or more, I don't mind. Box 6610 ☎ ✍

GOOD-LOOKING, caring, assertive, successful businessman, 40 WLTM very attractive lady under 40 who wishes to enjoy the finer things in life in a fun 1-to-1 relationship. Recent photo/tel no ensures reply. London/anywhere. Box 6591 ☎ ✍

HUMOROUS, assertive entrepreneurial workaholic 35, tall, dark (black), attractive, fit. Enjoys riding, golf, classical music, theatre. WLTM slim attractive confident lady 25+ for mutual communication. London. Photo plse. Box 6595 ☎ ✍

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INTELLIGENT, educated, travelled, attractive, sensitive, slim & fit 6', 35, broad interests including travel, sports, music, dance, nature, history. Seeking lady, attractive inside and out, yet to find 'Mr Right', with a zest for life, her own mind and sufficient humour to answer this ad. South East. Please reply with photo Box 6544 ☎ ✍

LAWYER, 50, successful, attractive, cultured, solvent, seeks attractive female 35ish to 45ish with similar qualities. London based. Photo, tel number & letter Box 6649 ☎ ✍

LOVE requires him to be intellectually stimulating, unattached and at least able to match your life style. You're lucky to find one person of this quality a year without us. E.C.

MULTI-MILLIONAIRE, self made, 45, stylish, 6' tall, slim, fit, n/s, worldly, honest, GSOH, South Bucks with 3 homes overseas WLTM much younger very slim lady 25-35 any nationality, whom I can constantly spoil and also share Rolls Royce lifestyle with. A zest for laughter and adventure mandatory. Current photo and phone number essential. Reply to Box No 6550 ☎ ✍

NATURIST WLTM similar lve, 50ish, share holidays/happy times together. I have lovely secluded garden virtually on Kentish beach ALA Bx 6597 ✍

PROF. fit mid 60's, no bad habits WLTM younger lady, N/S solvent independent for travel, walking, love (?), South Coast. Photo please. Box No 6620 ☎ ✍

RATHER splendid fellow seeks a lady of emotional substance. She should be talkative, caring, passionate and family minded. Late twenties to late thirties. Warmth of personality, a ready smile and tactile nature are particularly important characteristics. I am a n/s attractive professional graduate 36. Many diverse interests, but in need of conversation and cuddles. Long term relationship desired. South coast but will travel. Photo appreciated Box 6545 ✍

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[illegible], good looking, company director, mid 30's, slim, 5'8", N/S with varied life style, seeks a N/S attractive, slim professional lady with GSOH, for nightly distractions. London/Home Counties. Reply with photo to Box No 6496 ☎ ✍

STYLISH Midlands man, yes one exists! Professional, tall attractive male, 27, full of fun and personality enjoys sports and socialising seeks good looking, intelligent lady 22 - 35. So start today and enjoy your life! Photo appreciated Box 6639 ☎ ✍

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UNROMANTIC male, young 50, n/s, 6'. Green. Likes chamber music. Seeks no-nonsense intelligent female. London/ Surrey Reply to Box No 6651 ☎ ✍

ZZZzzz Wake up! Club Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

GAY Italian prof, 38, WLTM educated man (50-55). loves Italy & the countryside. Photo/Tel no. Box No 6646 ☎ ✍

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A TRUE STORY

My name is Kim. I have worked for two of the top introduction services in the UK, one of which was the largest in the world. I thought I could run a service better than this, so I set up my own. Indeed, it was one of the finest services in the UK. However, it was always second to one other organisation. They always attracted higher quality people and had such a large selection of members. Not content with running the second best agency in Britain, I thought if you can't beat them, join them! So I did. I asked The Executive Club of St James's to absorb our membership so they too could have the finest choice of unattached people in the UK. I am now proud to be working for an organisation I honestly believe to be the finest dating service it is possible to join.

By offering to refund your membership fee towards any other dating service in the world should you not agree that we are the best organisation available should tell you volumes about the service. I would be pleased to tell you more about our unique service – call Natalie on 0171 499 8833 for an appointment.

E.C. *Regards, Kim* E.C.

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You are likely to be aged 35/40, attractive, stylish, slim, easy going, but most of all fun to be with. Preferably you will live in the Cheshire or London areas.

In the first instance phone and talk to Cathy our VIP advisor at The Executive Club of St James's who will tell you more. We will act as a third party, not disclosing any details about yourself without your permission. Your details will at all times remain with us and will be returned to you. We assure you of absolute confidentiality. There are no fees to you and you may call at our premises in London, by prior arrangement, for a more personal briefing on our client.

So, you've never done this before? Nor has our client, so how else could he have met you? He'll even pay for both coffees! We look forward to your call.

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